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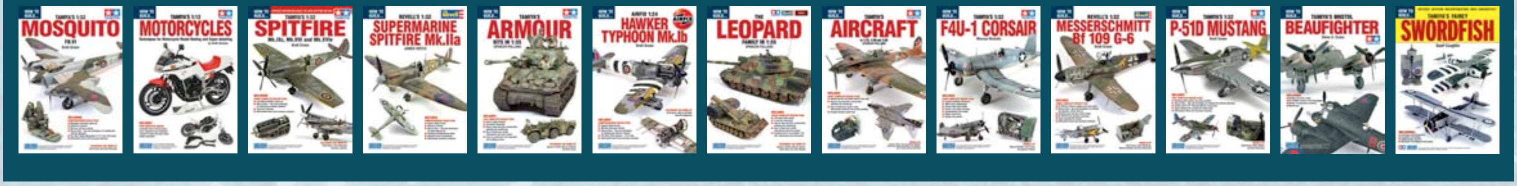
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NEW ULTRACAST FIGURES

It's been a while since Ultracast has produced any new figures under their own brand, but I am pleased to report that they are making up lost ground with five brand new 1:35 scale WWII releases with the emphasis on Allied – although there is one German for the Axis fans too:

- Item No. 35054 – British Empire Tank Crewman, North Africa & Italy 1941-45 (figure includes optional head). Sculpted by Pete Morton.
- Item No. 35055 – British Empire Tank Crewman, North Africa & Italy 1941-45 (figure includes optional head). Sculpted by Pete Morton.
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- Item No. 35057 – German Army Tank Crewman, 1940-45 (figure includes optional head). Sculpted by Mike Good.
- Item No. 35058 – American Tank Crewman, Europe 1944-45 (figure includes optional head). Sculpted by Mike Good.

These are available now from Ultracast's website ***www.ultracast.ca***

BRONCO NEW RELEASES

Bronco's busy new release schedule continues with the announcement of a new 1:35 scale KV-122 heavy tank.

The Battle of Stalingrad was the turning point of World War II. The Russian began a strategic counteroffensive until the summer of 1943 with a major tank battle near Kursk. As this time the Soviet Union urgently needed more powerful tank to withstand German armour, so the Russian Central Design Bureau adopted the KV-1S chassis with a new turret to create the KV-85 heavy tank.

Joseph Yakovlevich Kotin led the Central Design Bureau to improve the firepower of the KV-85. After some testing, the 122mm / D-25T gun was fitted, which resulted in the prototype heavy tank KV-122.

However, full production was not undertaken because the Soviets had developed a superior heavy tank equipped with the 122mm gun - the famous IS-2 heavy tank.

Bronco has now announced this fascinating prototype as a new kit in its range. The model will feature open vents with photo-etched mesh, engine detail, a DT-5 machine gun, workable separate track links and some detail inside the hull.

Bronco will also release an OQF 40mm Bofors Gun Mk.I/III (British Version) and crew set. The barrel is capable of recoil thanks to a spring. Six figures are included in the process of loading and firing the gun.

Also, Item no. AB3548 is a set of "duckbill" extenders for M4 Sherman Tank T48/T51/T54E1 tracks. Please note that the tracks themselves are not included.

Thanks to Bronco for the information and images

www.cn-bronco.com/en/index.php

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This new book comprises 192 pages A4, glue-bound, approx. 300 photos, of these 140 contemporary photos from manuals, combat and war fronts in b/w, a number of them previously unpublished; 110 colour photos of the surviving vehicles in public and private collections, 45 colour photos of the models from Tony.Greenland and Vinnie Branigan, plus 24 pages of scale drawings of all versions and details in 1:35 scale from John Rue, 14 camouflage schemes from Carlos Vaquerizo, and tables of organisation of units (Kriegstärke-Nachweisungen st KStN) having these vehicles in their arsenal.
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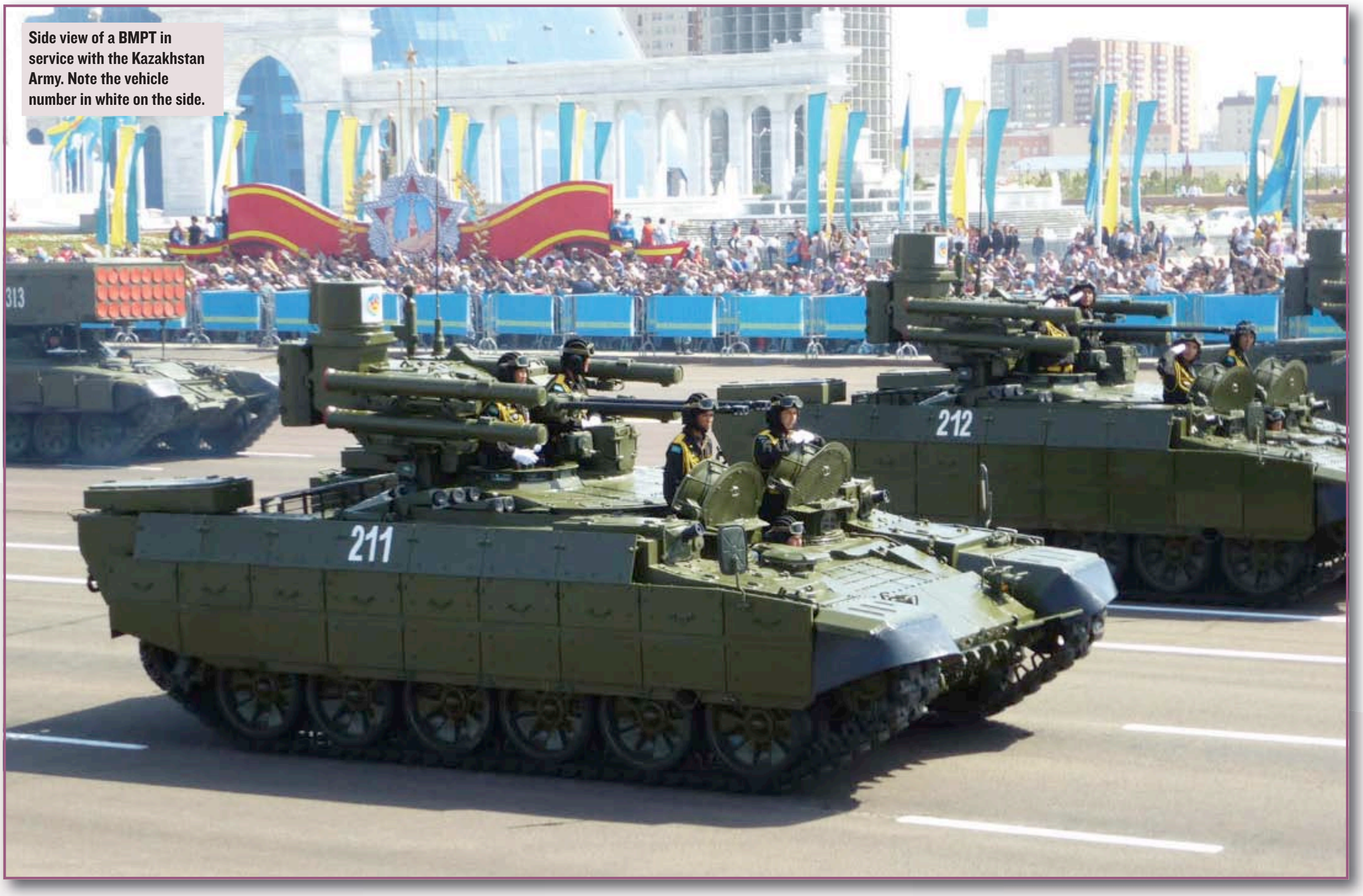

Side view of a BMPT in service with the Kazakhstan Army. Note the vehicle number in white on the side.

BMPT AND BMPT-72 TERMINATOR

Stuart Ransley describes the origins, development and specifications of the BMPT and BMPT-72 armoured close-support vehicles.

The BMPT is an armoured vehicle designed to provide close support to tanks and other AFVs in urban areas.

Designed and manufactured by the Russian company Uralvagonzavod the BMPT has been unofficially named the "Terminator" by the manufacturers. It has the protection and firepower to survive in an urban combat environment.

The BMPT was designed as a result of combat experience gained during the Soviet war in Afghanistan and the First Chechen War. A small number of vehicles were delivered to the Russian Army for evaluation in early 2005. As of 2015, the only operator of the BMPT is Kazakhstan. Russia appears to have dropped procurement of the BMPT in favor if the T-15 IFV based on the Armata Universal Combat Platform to fill the role

HISTORY

Armoured Fighting Vehicles have always been vulnerable to Infantry Anti-Armour Weapons, particularly in urban areas. The idea of a heavily armoured, anti-infantry vehicle has not been exclusive to the Soviet Union but it was the Soviet Arms industry that first started working on the concept intensively in the mid-1980s. Their experience in Afghanistan and Chechnya had taught the Soviets a painful, lesson – even heavily armoured vehicles were vulnerable to infantry attack in the urban environment. The massive spread of infantry anti-tank weapons starting in the late 1960s (mostly based on HEAT principle) and the vast improvements in these weapons during the 1970s and early 1980s further increased this threat to the point, where for a time, it was thought that the tank would eventually become obsolete.

Others however were actively looking for ways to give the advantage back to AFVs and one such idea was an armoured vehicle with the protection of a main battle tank but armed with anti-infantry weapons to provide support to the tanks.

The main requirements for this new vehicle were:

1. The vehicle would need to possess immense, high angle firepower,
2. The protection equivalent to that of an MBT. With enhanced protection from close range hand-held RPGs

The need for the Tank Support Fighting Vehicle became even more evident during the First Chechen War. Russian Forces attempted to use conventional armour during urban engagements and suffered heavy losses in manpower and equipment. It became very clear that a dedicated anti-personnel fighting vehicle would be needed to provide assistance in these urban environments. As a stop gap measure, self-propelled anti-aircraft (AA) guns were used in Chechnya in the tank support role but these vehicles were not well-armoured and did not possess the same mobility as an MBT.

In 1985 the Chelyabinsk Tractor Plant started work on developing a new vehicle they called "Mountain Tank", with three distinct projects for the tank support role – Object 781, Object 782 and Object 787 (referred to as Object 745 by some Russian sources) produced between 1987 and 1996.

OBJECT 781 AND 782

Object 781 was armed with two 30mm 2A72 guns. Each of these guns was mounted in a separate turret. The vehicle also carried an anti-tank guided missile system (Konkurs or Kornet) in the hull sides facing forward, two 30mm automatic grenade launchers and two 7.62mm machine guns were fitted.

Object 782 used the same turret as the BMP3 and was armed with a low-recoil rifled 100mm 2A70 gun and one 30mm 2A72 cannon. The turret was also fitted with an additional 30mm grenade launcher. 2 30mm automatic grenade launchers were mounted either side of the hull. Both of these vehicles were built on heavily modified T-72B hulls and had large crews – the driver, gunner, commander, plus 4 others. Object 782 was theoretically capable of firing at 6 different targets at the same time.

Trials were carried out using both vehicles from 1987 onwards in Chelyabinsk with Object 781 being selected over Object 782. Further development work of Object 781 continued at Chelyabinsk until the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, when the project was cancelled. Both prototypes were preserved at the Kubinka museum

OBJECT 787

The war in Chechnya and the disastrous losses of tanks and other AFVs to infantry tank hunting teams armed with RPGs re-started the development of the fire support vehicle in Russia. Chelyabinsk stepped up again, developing a completely new vehicle, known as Object 787(some sources refer to it as Object 754).

Built in 1996, it used the hull and turret of the T72AV and was fitted with Kontakt-1 reactive armour. The vehicle was armed with two high-elevation 30mm guns and 2 12.7mm heavy machineguns. These were mounted on the sides of the turret Mounted beside the 30mm guns were sets of unguided rockets (these had originally been designed for use on helicopters) for added firepower. The vehicle was named "Gadyuka" (viper) by the designers.

During the trials that were carried out at Kubinka, Object 787 performed excellently, gaining the support of many high ranking Russian Army Officers. The military, in an effort to gain support for the vehicle began advertising the vehicle on TV and Radio. Unfortunately, this caused some trouble within the Government which accused the participants including the vehicle designers of "publishing Russia's military secrets". An investigation was held which resulted in numerous personnel changes in the Chelyabinsk Tractor Plant company and the accused designers were forbidden from pursuing the project further which resulted in the cancellation of the Object 787 project. The only prototype was transferred to Kubinka.

OBJECT 199

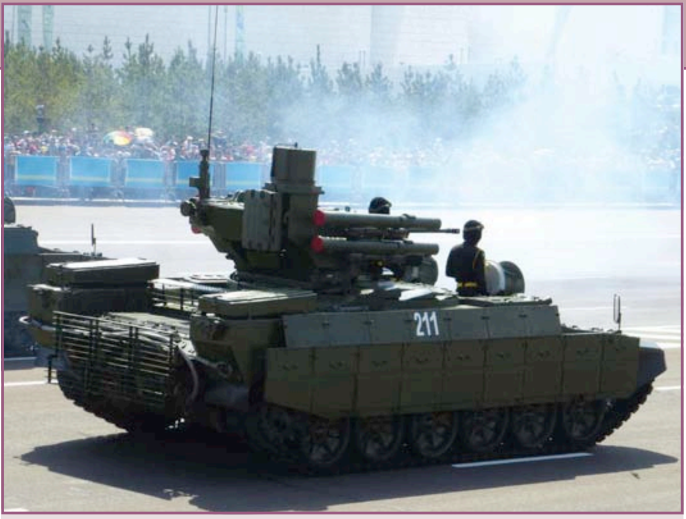
The idea of the Tank Support Fighting Vehicle continued with much debate in 1996-97 between the Russian minister of defence, I.N.Rodionov and other members of the military. Designers from Uralvagonzavod started working on a prototype of their own, introducing the first Object 199 "Ramka" prototype to public in 2000 at the Ural 2000 Defence Exhibition. The Object 199 was armed with only a single 2A42 30 mm gun and with four 9M133 Kornet missiles located on one side of the turret. Further testing resulted in the production model of the BMPT which was introduced in 2002. This vehicle was armed with the twin 30 mm autocannons, the two independent 30 mm automatic grenade launchers, and the four Ataka missile launchers.

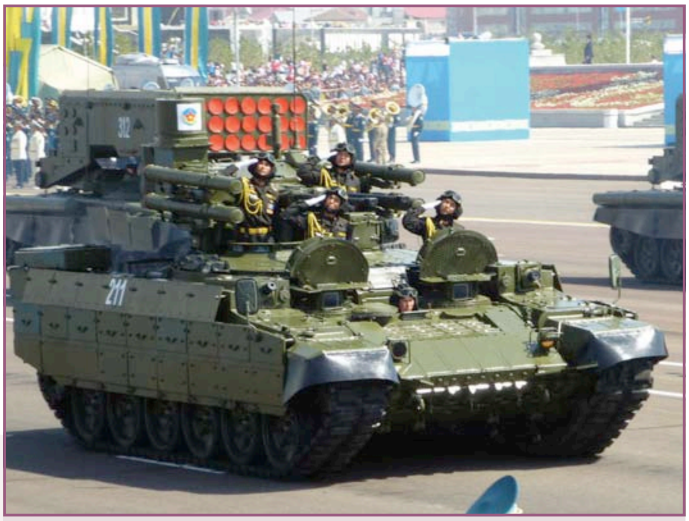
BMPT LAYOUT

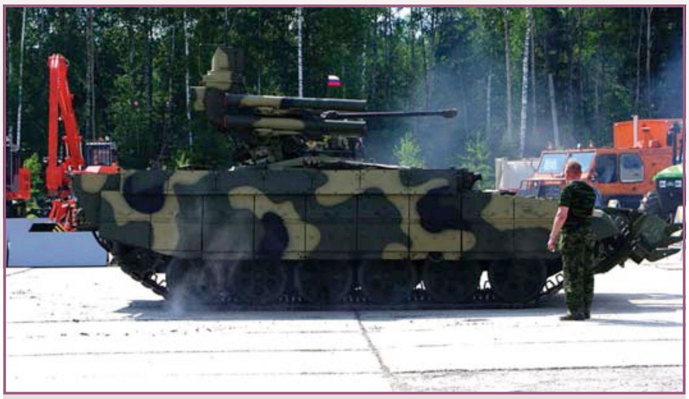
The BMPT has a crew of 5 – a driver, two grenade launcher operators, gunner and vehicle commander. The driver is seated at the front of the vehicle with the two grenade launcher gunners seated behind and to the left and right of the driver. Due to the raised hull they sit higher than the driver. The gunner and vehicle commander sit below the turret. This gives the vehicle a lower silhouette and greater protection for the crew. An NBC protection system is fitted to the vehicle. the BMPT can be fitted with mine-clearing devices such as the KMT-7 or KMT-8.

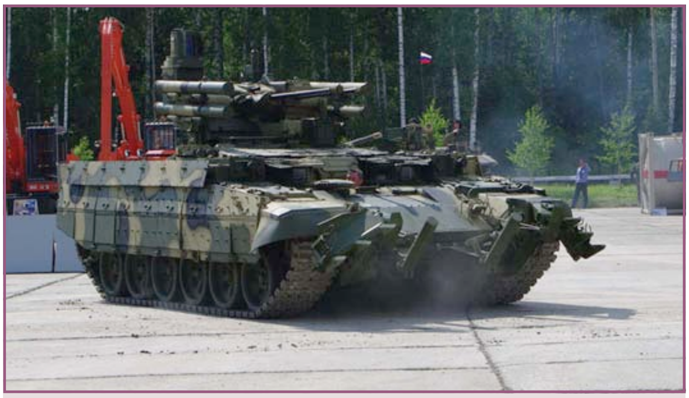
PROTECTION

The armour protection of the BMPT is better than most MBTs. The vehicle is fitted with both active and passive protection. Additional armour is fitted to the hull sides for crew protection and bar armour to the rear. ERA (Explosive Reactive Armour) can be fitted to the hull front and sides. The "Relikt" ERA fitted to the BMPT is claimed to be three times more effective than the earlier Kontakt-5 ERA. This gives excellent protection against Infantry Anti Tank weapons. The BMPT is fitted with a System 902A automatic smoke grenade launcher on both sides of the turret providing concealment and protection against infrared guided weapons. There are additional fuel tanks located in the rear of the hull in an armoured compartment on the left fender. The vehicle is also equipped with an automatic fire fighting system. ▶


Rear quarter view. Note the bar armour on the rear.


Front view. Note the emblem on the cover for the B07KI Panoramic sight.


Side view of a **BMPT** in a three-colour camouflage scheme. This vehicle appears to be on of the trials vehicles for the Russian Army. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*


Front quarter view showing the mine plough attachment. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*

PERFORMANCE

The BMPT is based on the hull of the T-90A. It is fitted with a V92S2 12 cylinder diesel engine coupled to a hydraulically assisted transmission with 7 forward gears and one reverse. This gives a maximum road speed of 60 kph and a cruising range of 550 km. The vehicle has torsion bar suspension consisting of six road wheels on each side of the vehicle with the idler at the front, drive sprocket at the rear and three return rollers supporting the inside of the track only. The BMPT can cross a trench up to 2.7 m wide and can overcome vertical obstacles up to 0.85 m high. It has a ground clearance of 404mm. The maximum gradient for the BMPT is 30° when climbing and 25° travelling along a slope. The vehicle can ford to a depth of 1.2m without any preparation and up to 5 m when fitted with a snorkel kit.

FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM

The BMPT is equipped with a digital fire control system; this allows for fast and precise engagement of different targets at ranges up to 5,800 metres. The system has two different ballistic computers - one for the turret gunner and one for the hull gunners.

The Fire Control components for the turret consist of a SOSNA-U sight for the Gunner, an independent B07K1 sight for the commander and a VB99-1 Ballistic Computer. The SOSNA-U sight includes a thermal imaging camera (displayed on a monitor), a day channel and a laser range finder. It also contains the guidance unit for the Ataka-T ATGM. The gunner's sight is mounted on top of the gunner's hatch, just in front of the turret.

The B07K1 panoramic sight provides 3600 field of view and allows the commander to observe the battlefield and assign targets to the crew. It can provide target detection for both ground and air at ranges of up to 7,000 m in poor weather conditions. It is fully stabilized in two fields and contains a day channel, a laser range finder and an image intensifying sight, the images are displayed on a monitor. It can also display the thermal image of the gunner's sight. The B07K1 also contains a guidance unit for the ATGM. It is mounted on the rear top right sight of the turret.

The VB99-1 ballistic computer completes the fire control system in the turret. It uses data from various sensors including crosswind, cant, target and tank speed, Range to target, selected weapon type and turret position. The fire control system is also able to provide automatic target tracking, using the thermal image from the gunner's SOSNA-U sight.

The fire control components for the hull consist of 2 TKN-4MR sights. These are similar to the ones used in the T90 MBTs Commanders hatch but have been modified for use in the BMPT. The TKN-4MR is an optical sight and contains a day channel and an image intensifying night sight. Ranging is done manually via the optics. But the commander can also range targets and transfer the data automatically to the hull gunners. The TKN-4MR includes a vertical stabilisation and is fitted to the hull gunner's hatches. But because of the position of the sight and the linked grenade launchers, the horizontal field of movement is very limited. These units are linked to an independent VK99 ballistic computer. It is linked to the VB99-1 computer enabling targeting information to be transferred from the commander to the hull gunners.

ARMAMENT

The BMPT is armed with the following weapons:

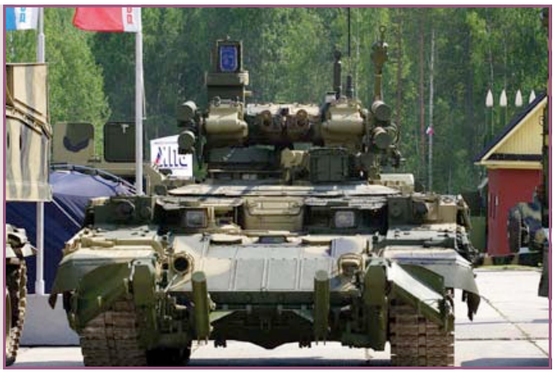
- four launchers for the 130 mm 9M120 Ataka-T anti-tank guided missile (ATGM)
- two 30 mm 2A42 with 850 rounds
- two AG-17D 30 mm grenade launchers with 600 rounds
- one 7.62 mm PKTM machine gun with 2,000 rounds

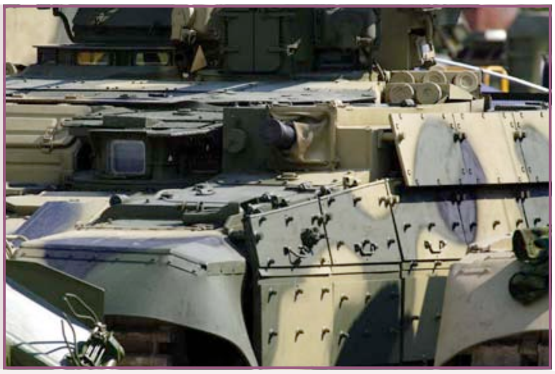
ANTI-TANK GUIDED WEAPONS

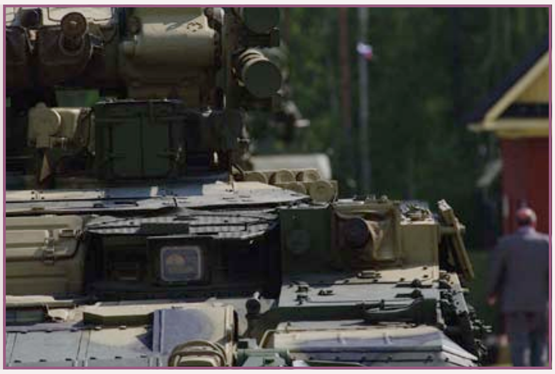
The primary anti-armour weapon system fitted to the BMPT is the 9M120 Ataka ATGM. The vehicle is fitted with four launch tubes, mounted in pairs on either side of the turret. The launchers have a maximum elevation of +25 deg and a maximum depression of -5 deg. The 9M120 is laser guided and can engage targets at ranges up to 6km. There are multiple variants including: Anti-Armour, Anti-Personnel and Anti-Aircraft. The Anti-Armour variant of the missile is 130 mm in diameter and features a tandem warhead capable of defeating explosive reactive armor (ERA). The tandem warhead can penetrate up to 800 mm of Rolled homogeneous armor (RHA) behind the ERA. This capability has been increased to 950mm of RHA. The anti-personnel variant (9M120F) contains a thermobaric warhead and has an equivalent blast effect of 9.5 kg of TNT.

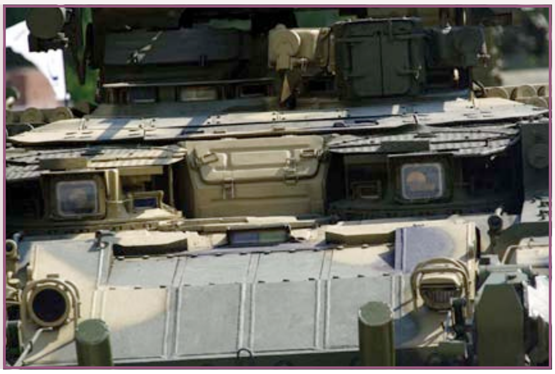
AUTOCANNONS

The next weapon system fitted to the BMPT is the 30mm 2A42 autocannon. A pair of these guns are mounted in the turret and

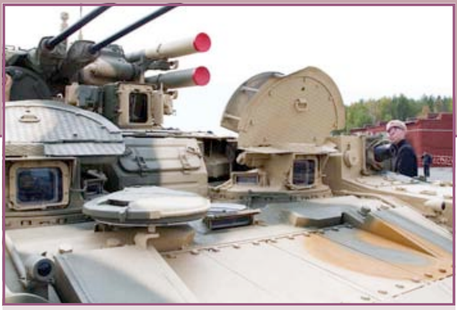

Front view note the mine plough attachment. ***(photo Stefan Liess)***


Close up of the left side grenade launcher and gunners position. ***(photo Stefan Liess)***

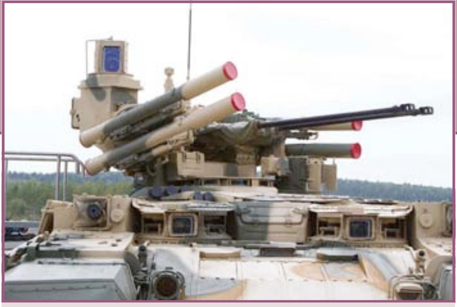

Close up of the left side TKN-4MR sight for the Grenade Launcher. ***(photo Stefan Liess)***


Close up of the front of the vehicle. The driver's position is in the middle below the two grenade launcher gunners position. ***(photo Stefan Liess)***

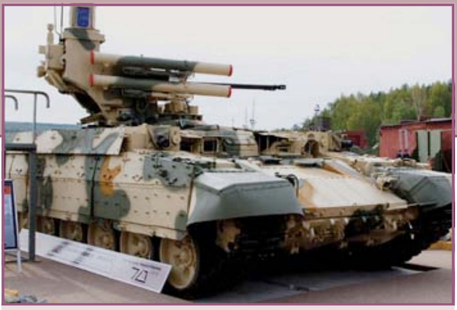
Front view of a BMPT. ***(photo Stefan Liess)***



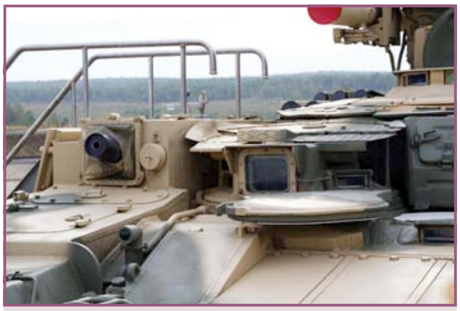
Close up of the hatch detail of the hull gunner's hatches. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



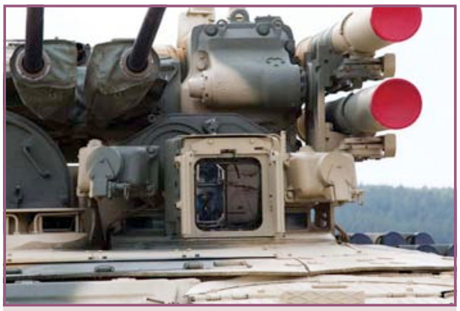
Close up of the turret showing the ATGM Launchers. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



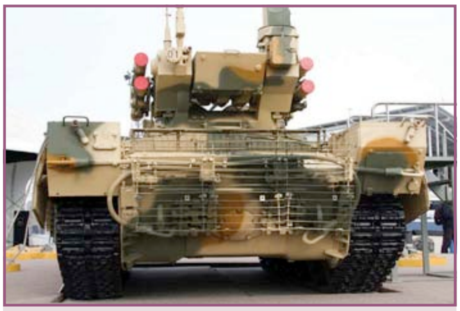
Front quarter view of a display vehicle. Note the different paint scheme. *(photo Stefan Liess)*



Close up of the right side grenade launcher and gunner's TKN-4MR Sight. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



Close up of the SOSNA-U Gunner's Sight. *(Photo by Stefan Liess)*



Rear view showing the bar armour protecting the engine compartment. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*

have a maximum depression of -50 and a maximum elevation +450 and are stabilised in the vertical and horizontal planes. This high elevation capability enables the crew to engage targets in multi level buildings and low flying helicopters. A total of 850 rounds of ready use ammunition can be carried. They have a combined rate of fire of 600 rounds per minute.

There are a number of different types of ammunition available for the 2A42 gun these include:

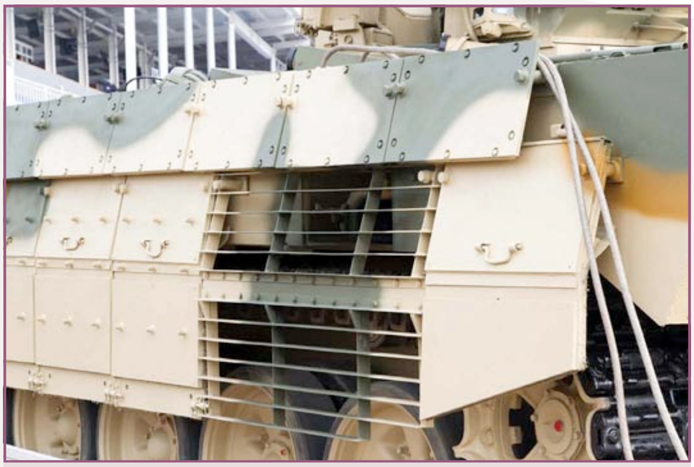
- High Explosive-Tracer (HE-T),
- Armor-piercing discarding sabot (APDS),
- High Explosive Fragmentation (HE-FRAG)
- Armor-Piercing-Tracer (AP-T).

These rounds have effective ranges between 2,500 m and 4,000 m depending on the type. The muzzle velocity of the projectiles is 960 m/s.

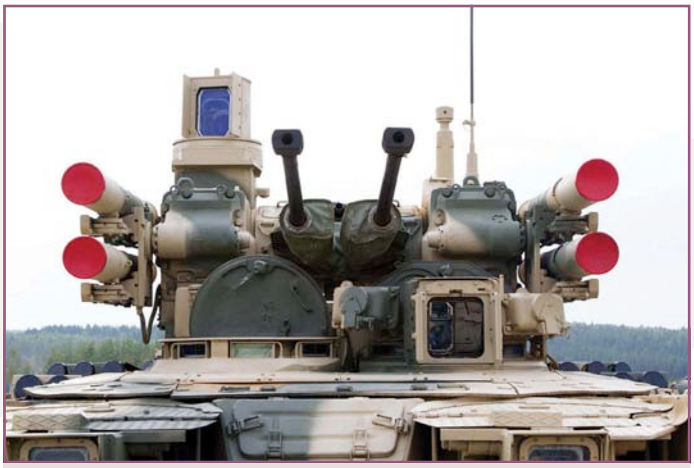
A 7.62 mm PKTM machine gun is mounted above and coaxially with the main armament and holds 2,000 rounds.

GRENADE LAUNCHERS

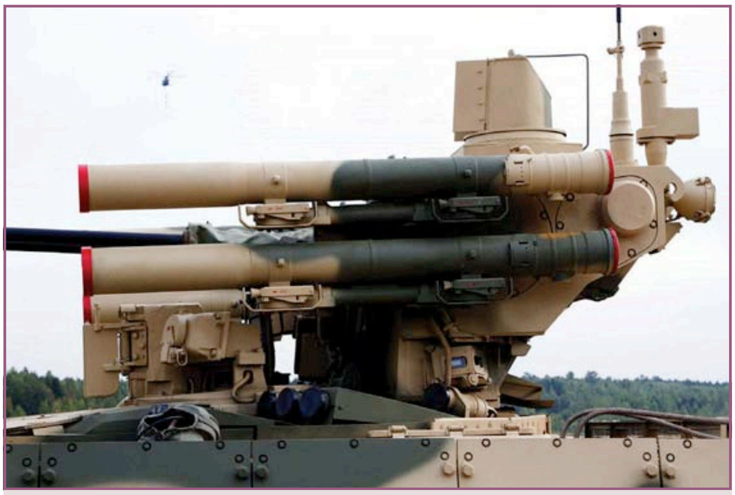
The BMPT is fitted with 2 AG-17D 30mm Grenade Launchers. These are mounted on each side of the vehicle and are operated by a crew member. They are stabilised in the vertical plane only. A total of 300rds are carried for each gun and have an effective range of 1700m. They have a maximum depression of -5.50 and a maximum elevation of +200. The AG-17D has a rate of fire of 420-480rds per minute. ▶



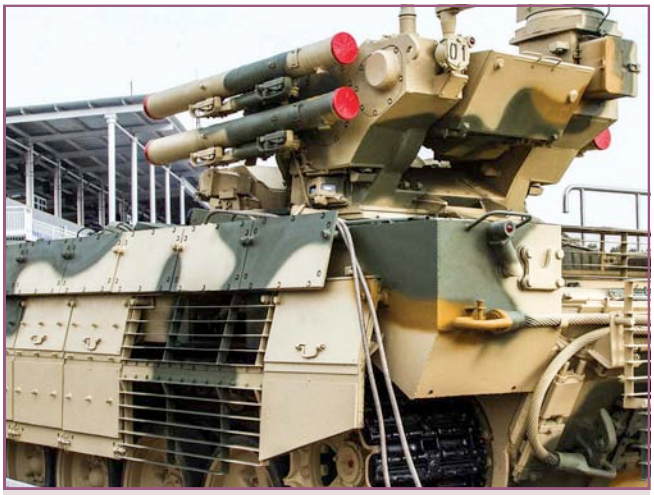
Close up showing the side armour and the bar armour over the engine exhaust. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



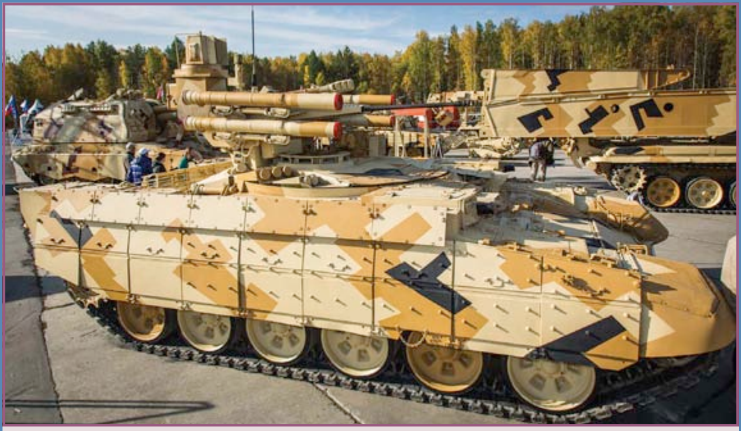
Close up of the front of the turret. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



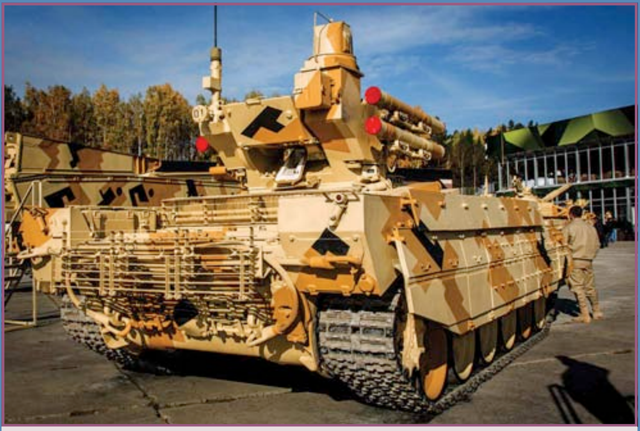
Close up of the 9M120 Ataka-T anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) launchers. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



Rear quarter view. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



Right side view of a BMPT finished in a new 3 colour digital scheme. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



Rear view of a vehicle finished in the new 3 colour digital scheme. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*

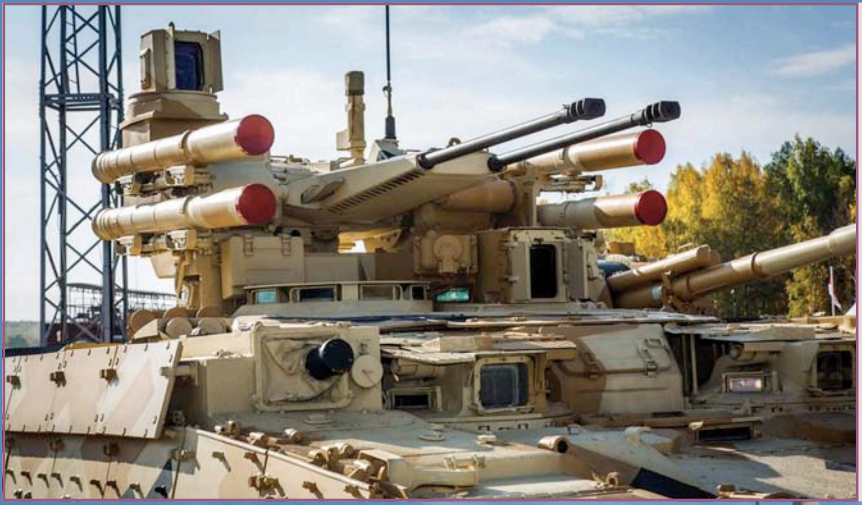
As of 2015, the only operator of the BMPT is Kazakhstan. The Russian Military have dropped procurement of the BMPT in favor if the T-15 IFV based on the Armata Universal Combat Platform to fill the role.

BMPT-72

At the Nizhny Tagil Arms Expo 2013 in Russia, Uralvagonzavod unveiled a new version of the BMPT known as the BMPT-72. This vehicle is similar to the BMPT but is built on the older T-72 MBT hull. It is offered as a retrofit upgrade package only and is intended for the export market.

ARMAMENT

The BMPT-72 is not fitted with the two automatic grenade launchers in the hull thus reducing the crew from 5 to 3. All other weapons are the same as the BMPT.



Close up of the turret *(Photo Stefan Liess)*

PROTECTION

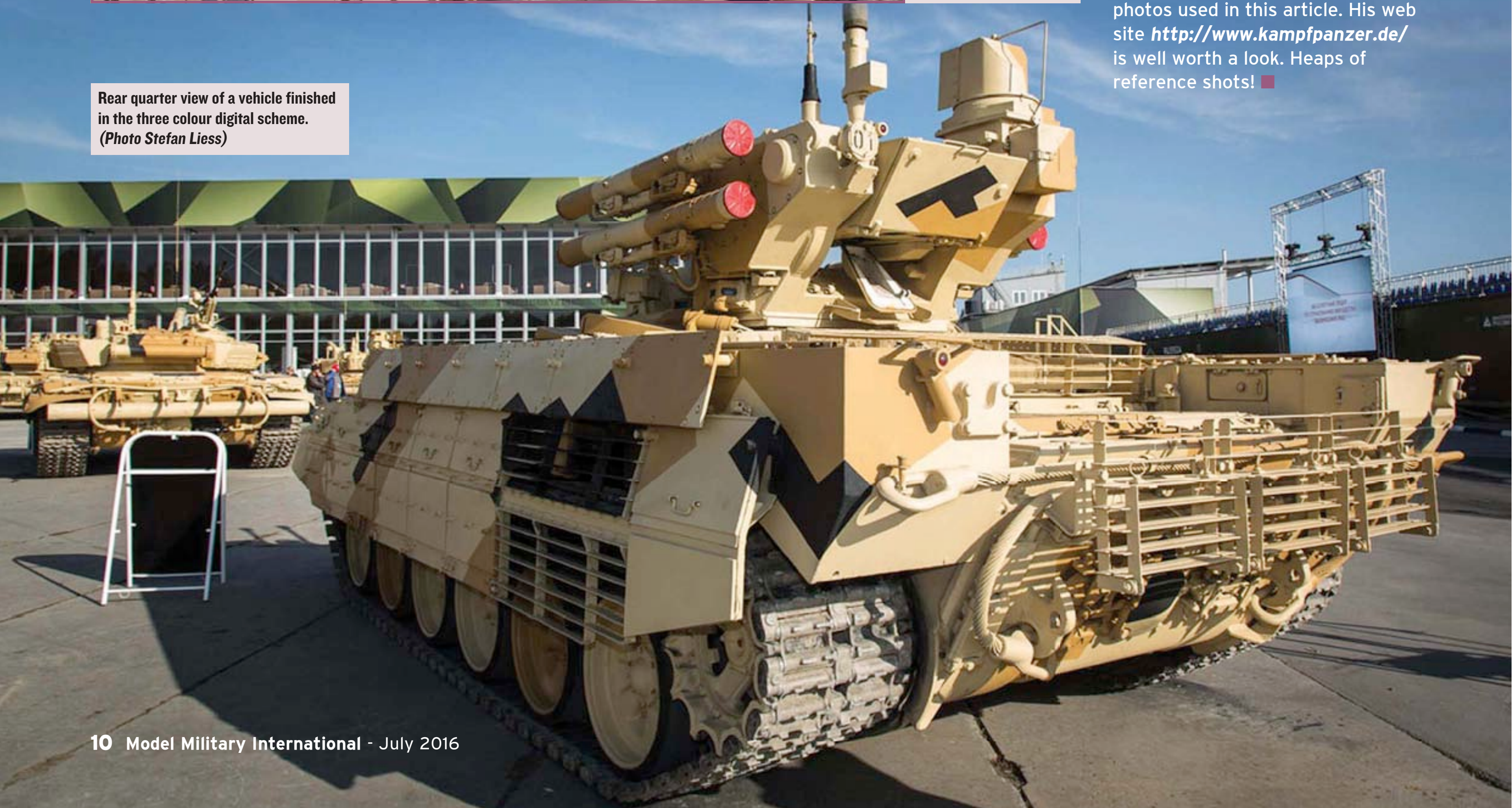
The BMPT-72 is 4 tonnes lighter than the BMPT but offers the same level of protection. The upper part of the suspension is protected by armor plates towards the front and slat armor towards the rear. Additional slat armour is fitted on the rear and sides of the chassis to increase protection against rocket propelled grenades. The launchers for the Ataka missiles are fitted with extra armour to provide protection against shell splinters and small arms fire.

MOBILITY

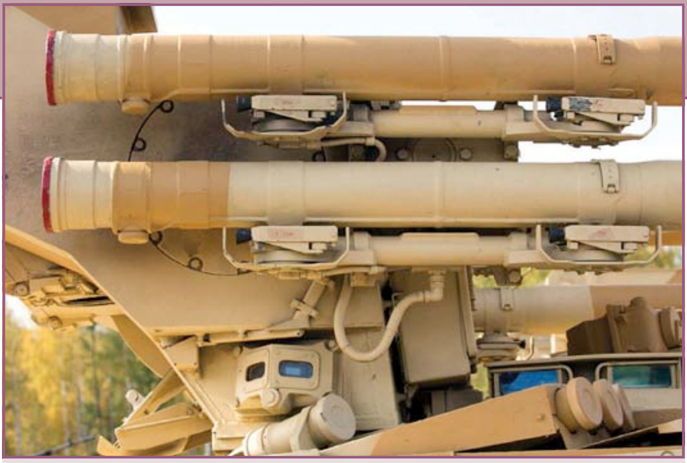
The mobility of the BMPT-72 is the same as the earlier BMPT.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

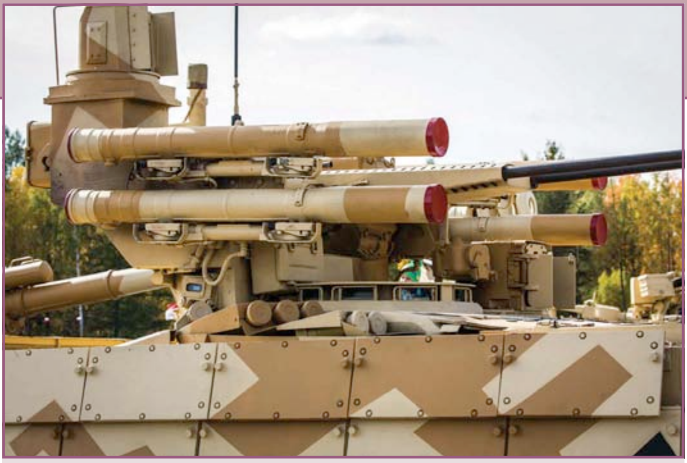
A special thanks goes to Stefan Liess who provided many of the photos used in this article. His web site ***http://www.kampfpanzer.de/*** is well worth a look. Heaps of reference shots!



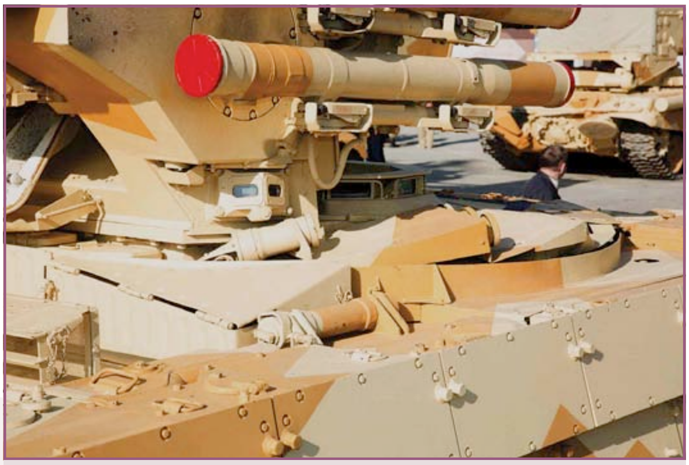
Rear quarter view of a vehicle finished in the three colour digital scheme. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



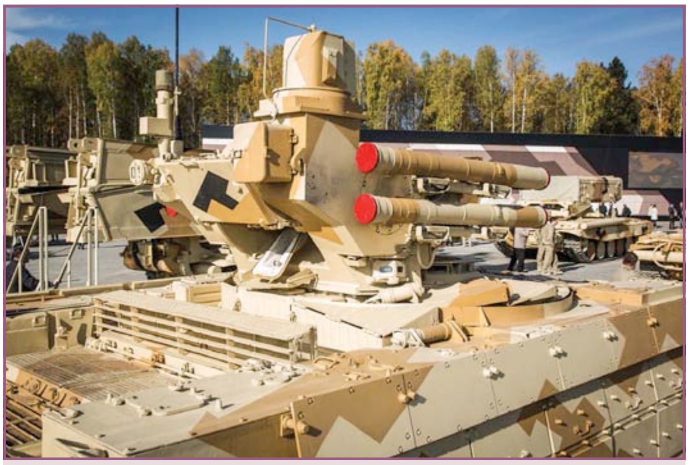
Close-up of the mountings for the 9M120 Ataka-T anti-tank guided missile. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



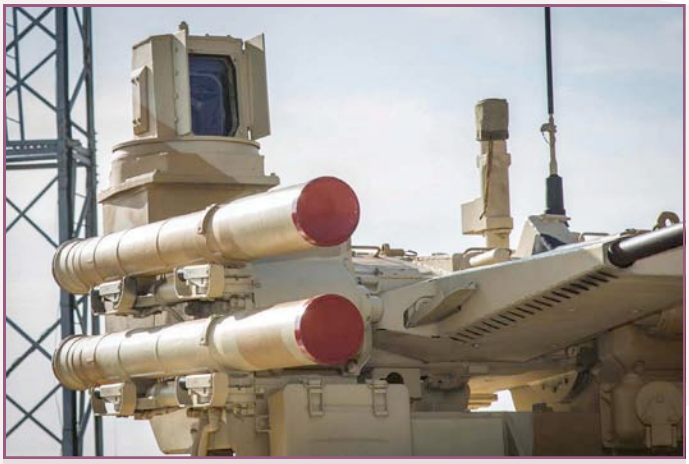
Close up of the turret side. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



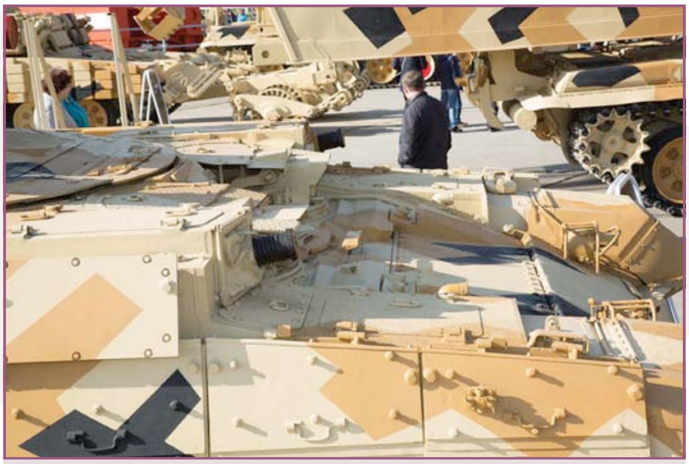
Close-up of the Smoke Grenade Launchers around the base of the turret. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



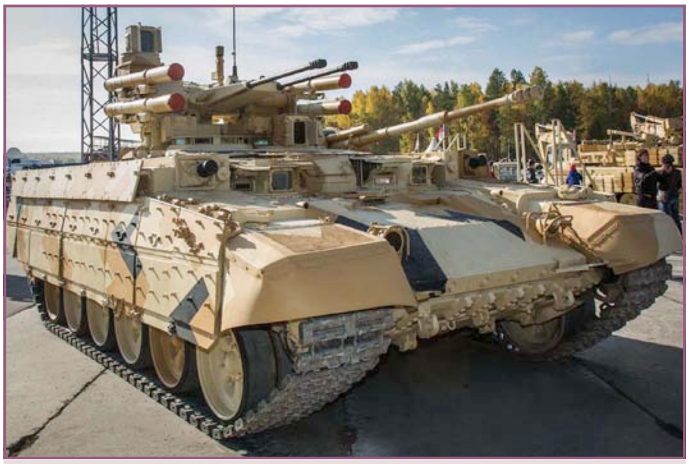
Close-up showing the top of the hull and rear of the turret. *(Stefan Liess)*



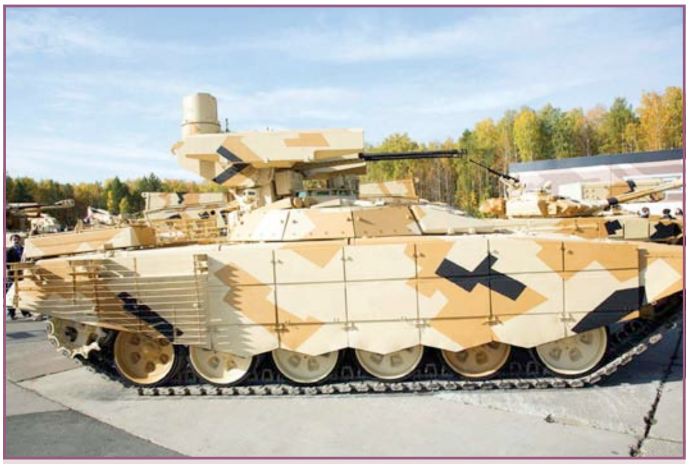
Close-up showing the ATGM Launchers and 30mm guns. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



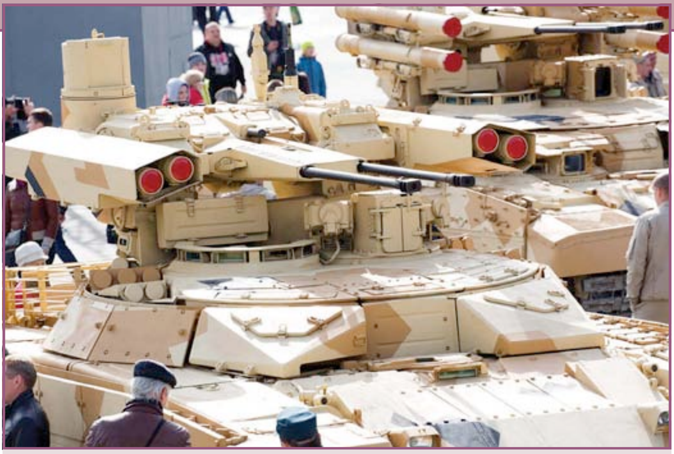
Close-up of the hull grenade launchers note the raised section of hull. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



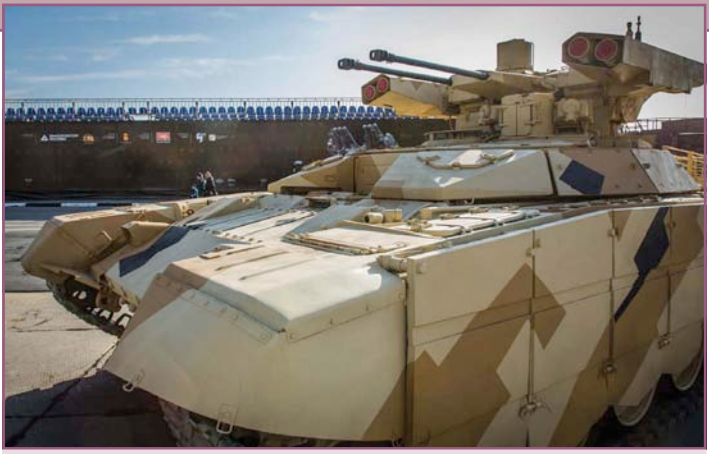
Front quarter view of the BMPT. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



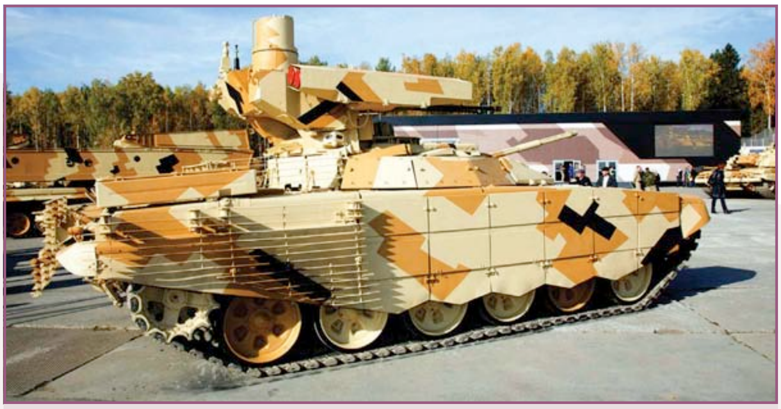
Side view of the BMPT72. Note the different side armour and lack of hull mounted grenade launchers. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



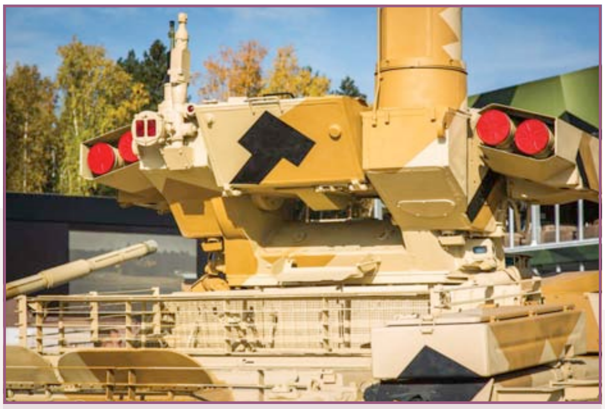
View showing the turret and different upper hull configuration of the BMPT72. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



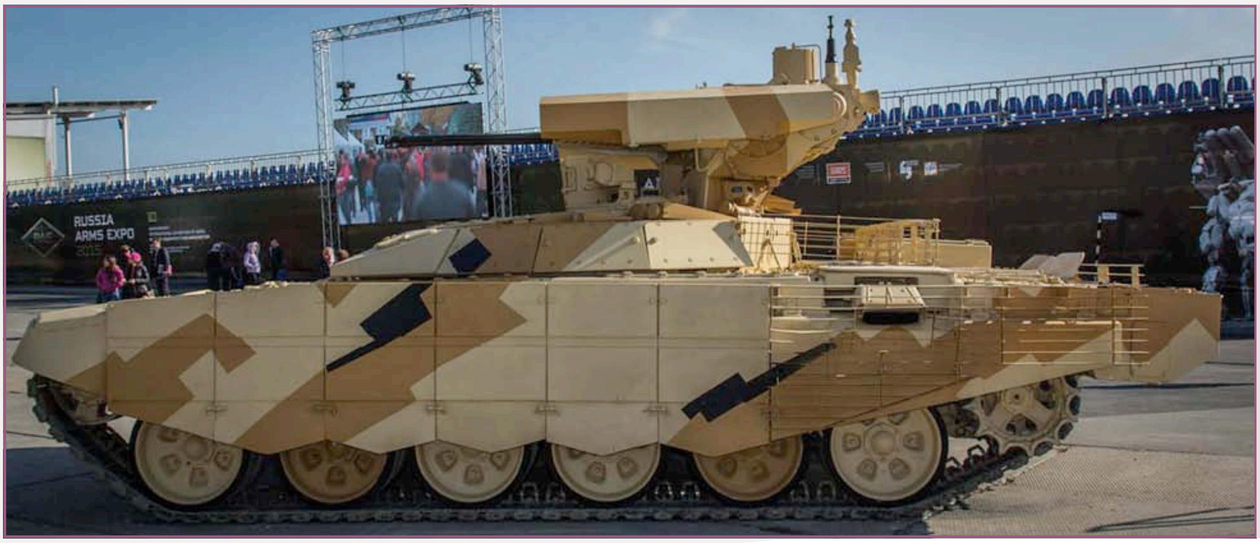
Close-up front quarter view of the BMPT 72. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



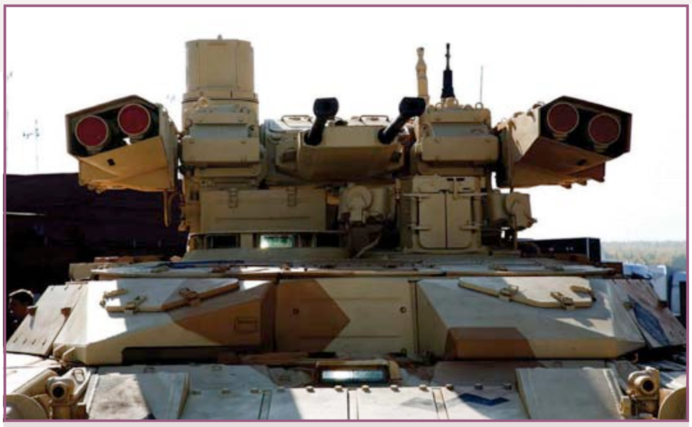
Side view of a BMPT 72 showing the bar armour protecting the engine compartment. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



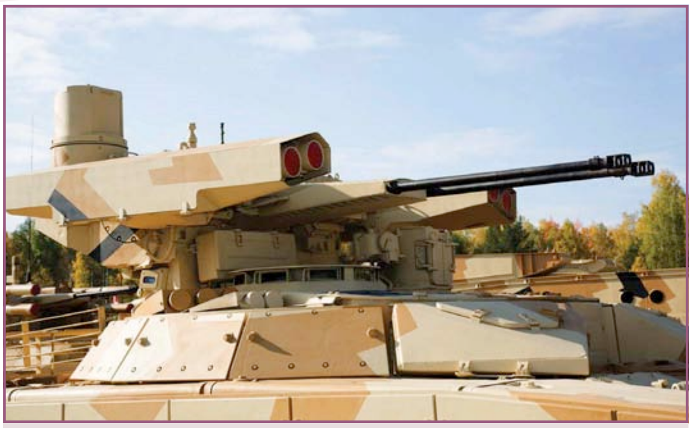
Close-up of the rear of the turret on the BMPT 72 showing the different configuration of the ATGM Launchers. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



Left side view showing the different armour configuration around the engine exhaust. *(photo Stefan Liess)*



Close-up of the front of the turret on the BMPT 72. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*



Close-up side view of the turret of the BMPT 72. *(Photo Stefan Liess)*

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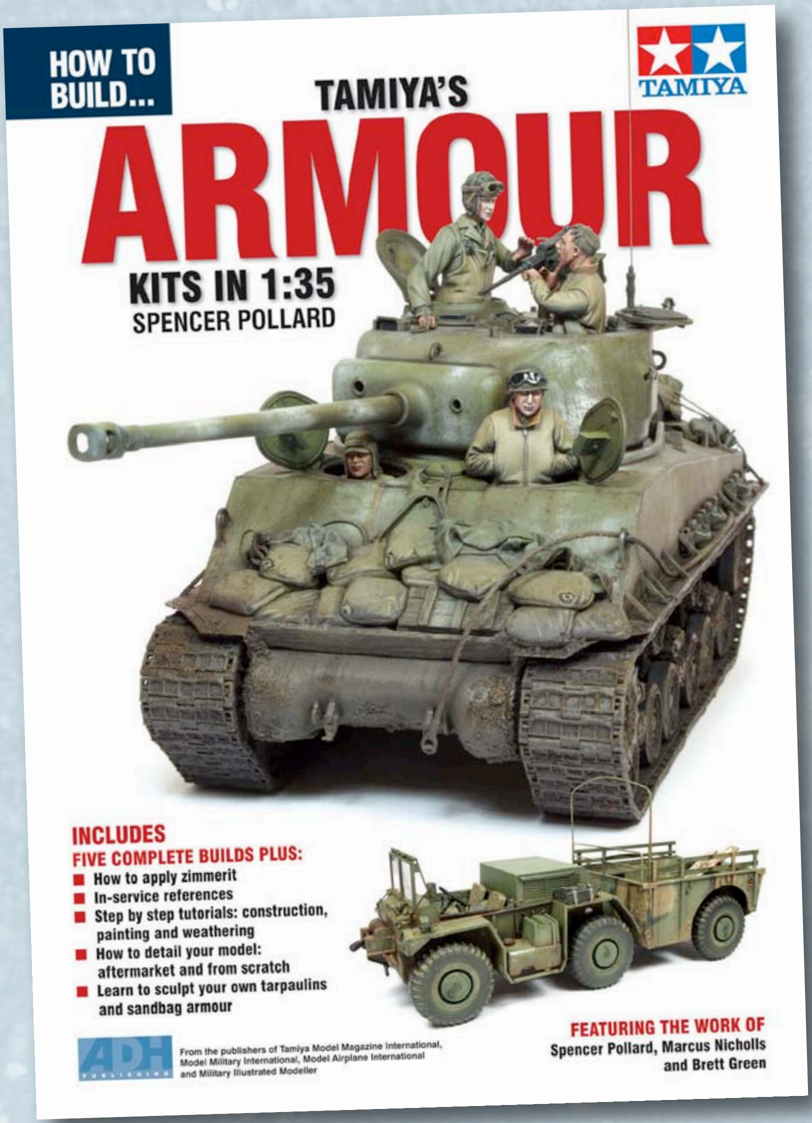

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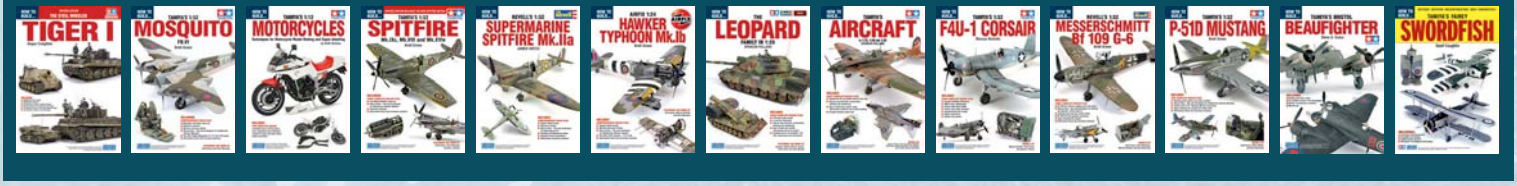

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TERMINATOR!

Andrew Judson builds Meng's new 1:35 scale BMPT Fire Support Combat Vehicle.

> **"As soon as I opened the box, I knew that I was up for one big build..."**

Being a big fan of modern subjects, I am always on the hunt for new subjects to do, and when I heard that MENG was bringing out this beast, I had to have it.

What really stood out for me was the menacing futuristic look of this machine with its 4 anti-armour rockets and twin 30mm automatic cannons, then just to top it off twin automatic grenade launchers mounted in the front of the hull. The vehicle wasn't designed for anything but a troop support role, packing a heck of a lot of firepower making it effective in an urban environment due to its compact size and weapon choice.

IN THE BOX

As soon as I opened the box, I knew that I was up for one big build.

The box bulges with 33 sprues of various sizes, upper and lower hull, turret top, a suspension-adjusting jig, a fret of photo-etched parts, wheel masks in brass and some metallic stickers for the mirrors. The whopping total is 1530 parts!

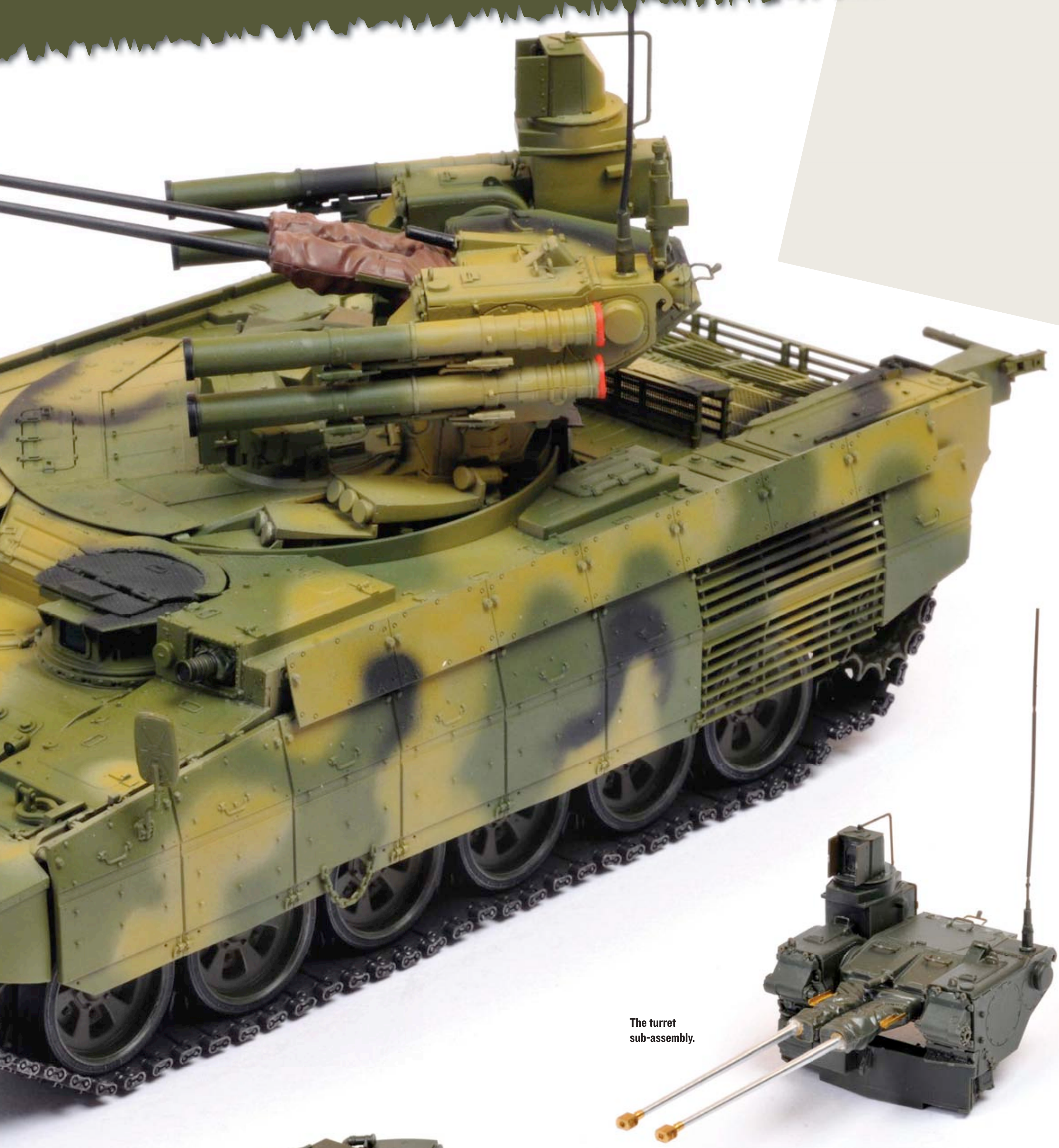
The instruction booklet is quite a size with 25 pages, including a good description of the vehicle, the actual instructions, with 41 construction steps and lastly a choice of three colour schemes in different profiles representing vehicles from Russian Arms Expos from 2009 to 2013.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

After looking at all of this, it was time to start building - and building and building!

The first eight stages are devoted to building the running gear, which went quite well. I was very impressed with the workable torsion bar suspension, and to ensure everything sat in the right place, I used the jig provided, which was simple and fast.

What wasn't fast were the ▶



The turret
sub-assembly.

The result was okay but the kit barrels probably would have looked just as good.

The kit gun barrels were replaced with a bagged set of turned metal barrels.

The turret base with crew hatches and vision devices.

◀ tracks, which are supplied in multiple parts and are very time consuming to assemble. You are provided with a small jig for them to lay on and a second to put on the connectors, which just pop on and require no glue.

Next we start on the upper hull with 16 stages, which went smoothly, although it was very involved with a lot of detail work, some photo-etch and placing on the bar armour, which is very finely moulded. Great care is needed to make sure it sits in the correct position and straight.

TURRET AND FINISHING TOUCHES

The turret was next with twelve steps in the build. This was just about a kit in itself with excellent detail to boot. I must confess that I didn't use the kit's plastic barrels, and resorted to a pair of metal barrels that were given to me in a plain plastic bag, brand unknown. I thought they would look better, although I did have a little trouble mounting them in place as the locating slots in these weren't great and it took me a while to get them straight and fixed in place. The end result worth it, bit looking back, the kit ones would have been fine.

The last four stages were for the mine plough on the front. Again this is very complex, and a lot of care is needed to ensure everything is lined up in the right position so that it sits correctly on the kit.

With this done, construction was now completed.

LEAF CAMOUFLAGE

After this epic build, I studied the paint scheme and decided on using the Arms Expo 2009 camouflage - a three tone leaf pattern. For the colours I chose a Russian brand in acrylic lacquers, AKAN, starting with Yellow Earth, then the first overlap colour, Plain Green, and then Black Grey as the last colour.

This was left to dry and then I painted the mine plough in Russian Grey Green.

It was the first time I had used these paints and I must admit that I was a little nervous, as I didn't want things to go afoul after the work I had put in. However, I found them to spray smoothly and without any issues at all. The colours were rich and look great.

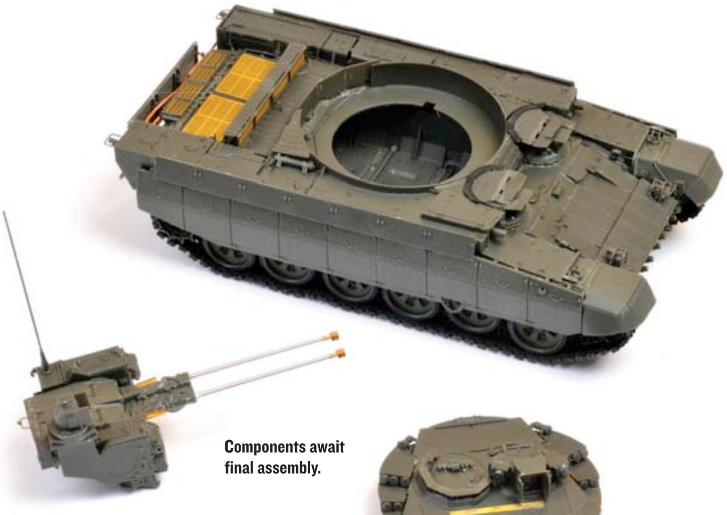
WEATHERING

With the vehicle painted, it was time to detail it up and make it look the business. I started with a very fine pin wash using Citadel wash, Agrax Earth Shade and then to tone and blend everything in together, applied a good old very light dry brush. I also painted in things like Gun Barrels, And some of the other finer details. Painting was now completed, although it needed that last little extra thing, a very thinned down spray of Tamiya Buff, mainly on the drive line. Being an Arms Expo vehicle, these are kept very clean, so I couldn't go too far with weathering.

Finally the tracks received a light going over with a metallic silver to show light wear from being transported around.

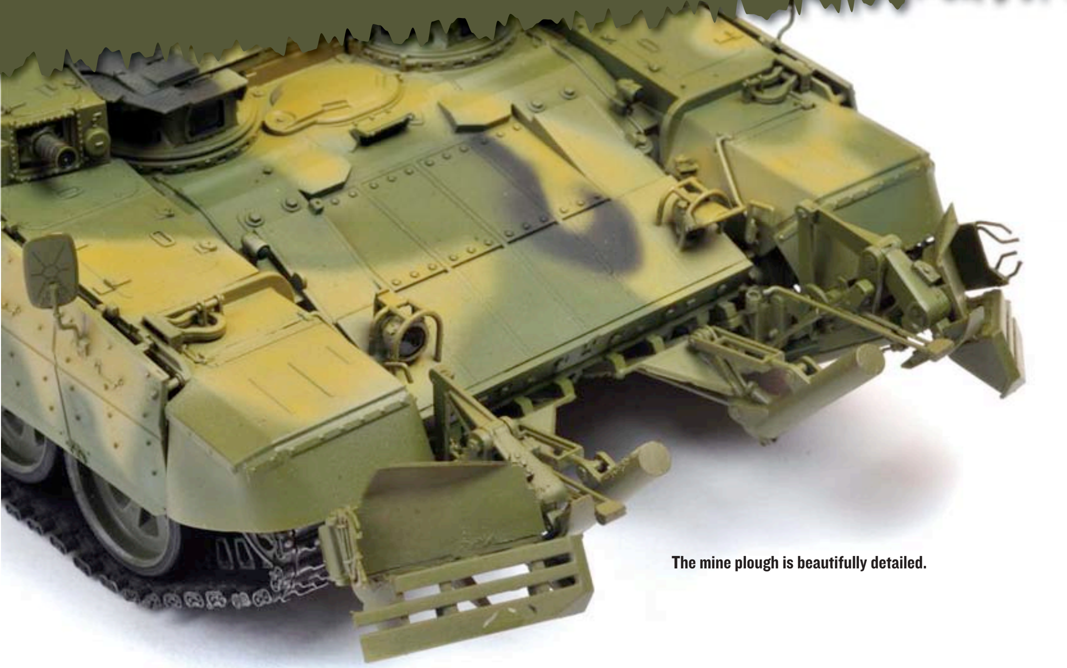
I now called this job finished. ▶

The hull sub-assembly complete with tracks.

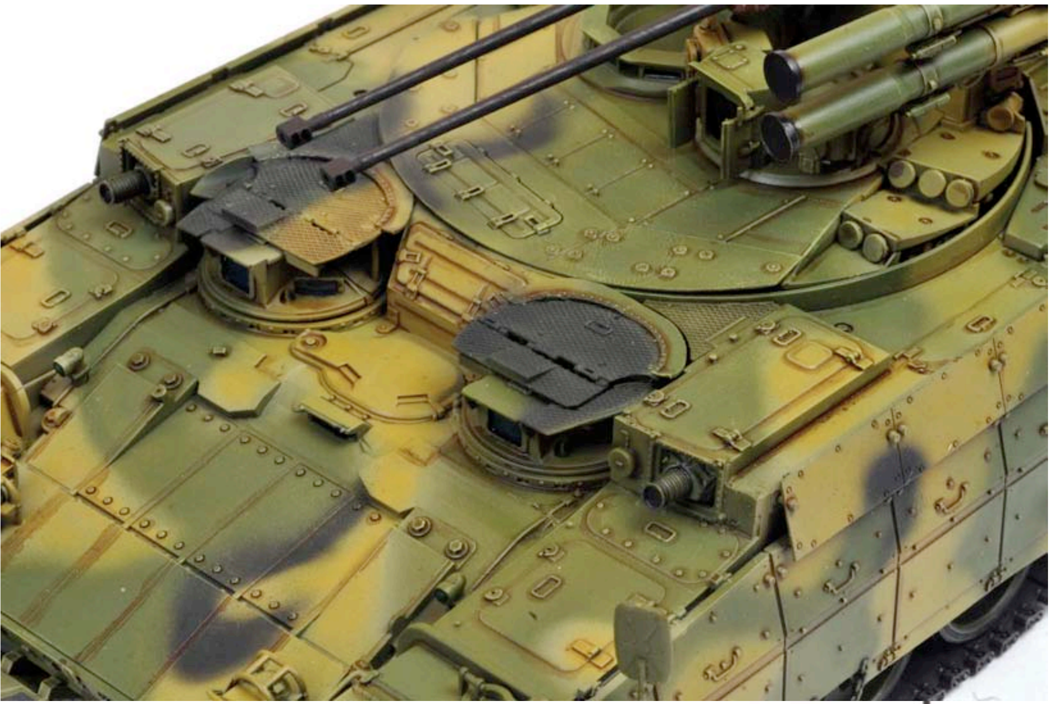


Components await final assembly.

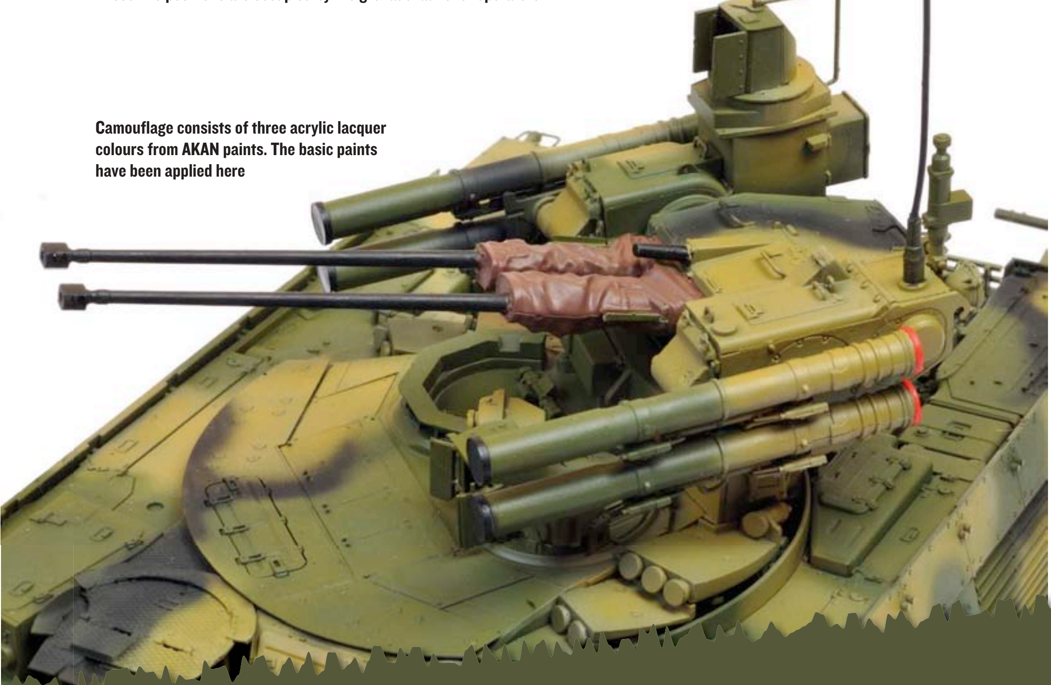
Bringing it all together. The vehicle is now ready for paint.



The mine plough is beautifully detailed.



These two positions are occupied by the grenade launcher operators.



Camouflage consists of three acrylic lacquer colours from AKAN paints. The basic paints have been applied here

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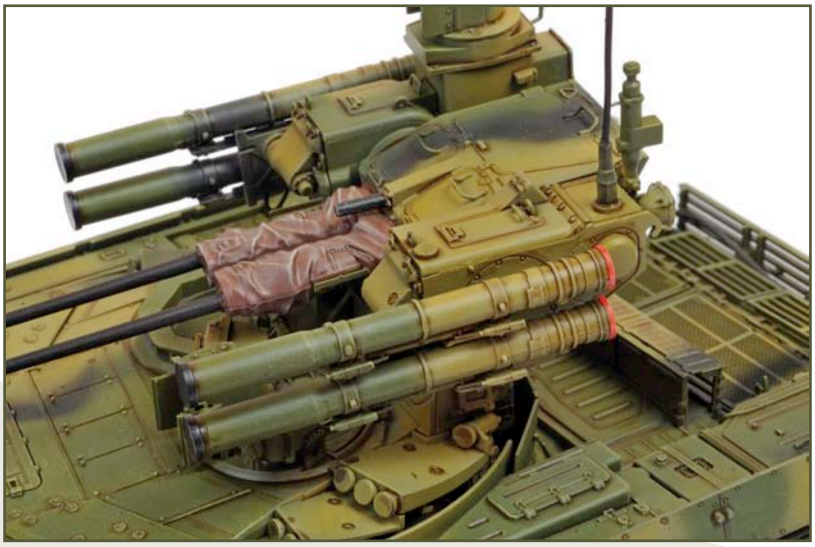
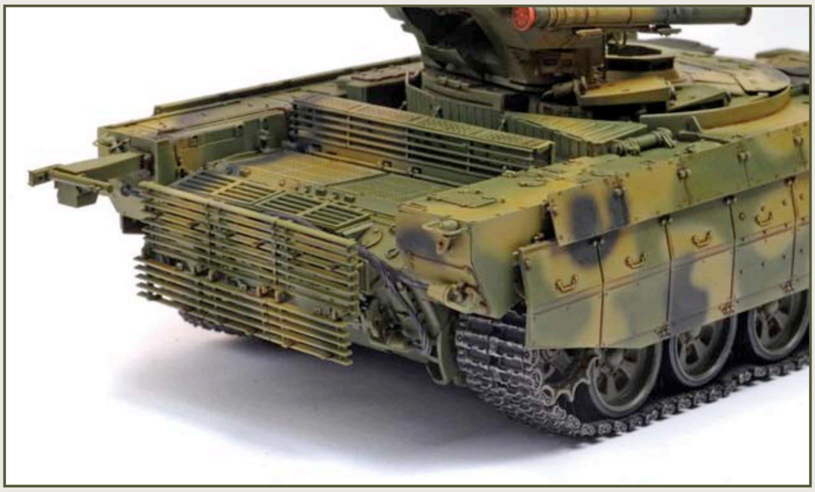
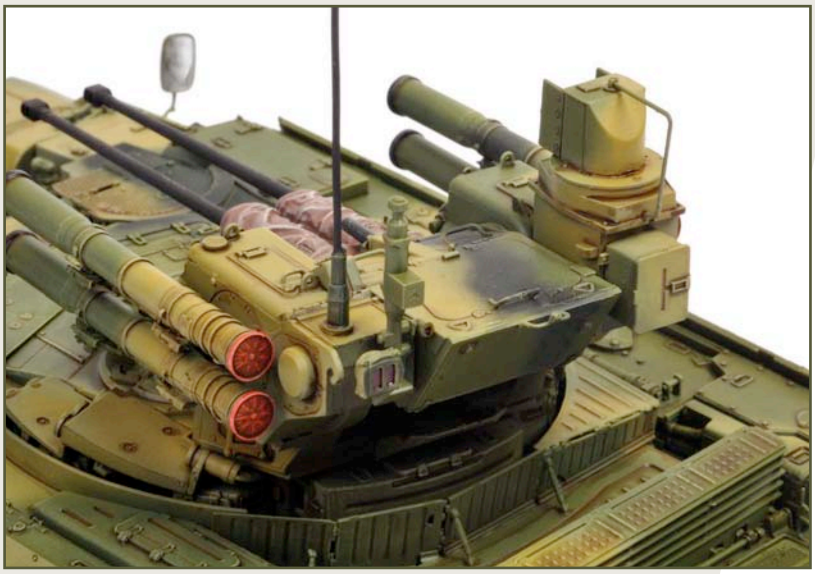


Subtle weathering comprised a very fine pin wash using Citadel wash, Agrax Earth Shade and then to tone and blend everything in together, applied a good old very light dry brush.



The tracks received a light going over with a metallic silver to show light wear.



Detail is exquisite throughout.

> **"After this epic build, I studied the paint scheme and decided on using the Arms Expo 2009 camouflage - a three tone leaf pattern..."**

The three "Leaf Camouflage" colours are Yellow Earth, Plain Green, Black Grey.

CONCLUSION

This was a very enjoyable kit to build, although I won't lie, I did get frustrated at times, especially with the tracks.

Even so, I was very happy with the end result, and was impressed with the level of detail in this great kit.

I would say it is not a beginner's model at all, and more for the experienced builder. If you want a challenge, get this model and build it - you'll love it. ■

Modelspec

Meng 1:35 Russian Terminator Fire Support Combat Vehicle BMPT
Kit No. TS010

✓ Very high level of detail; excellent moulding; high quality instructions and packaging.

✗ Complex construction.

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The plastic slat armour looks great on the model.

Although this is by no means a beginner's model, it is an impressive and satisfying project.

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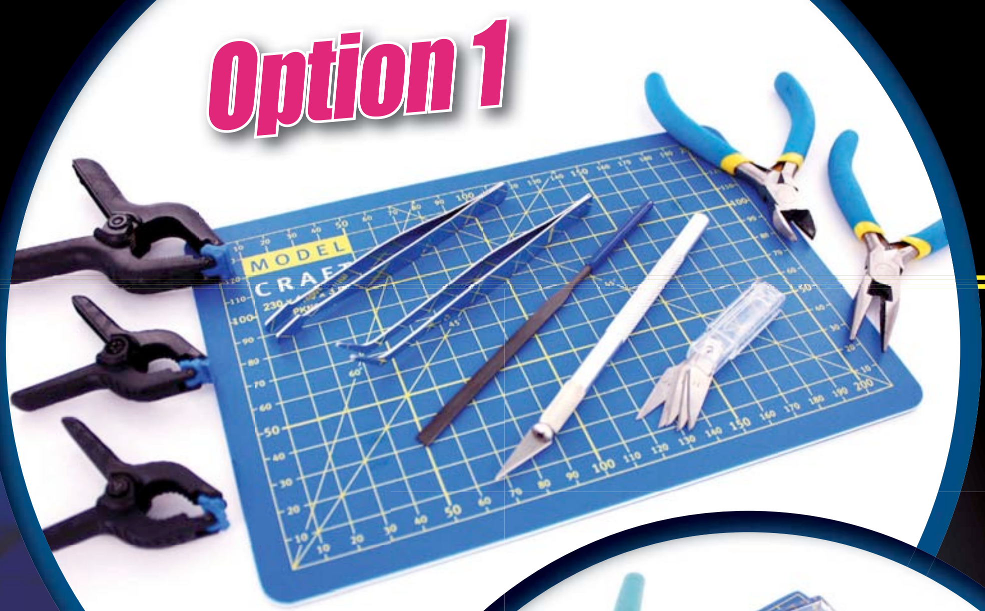

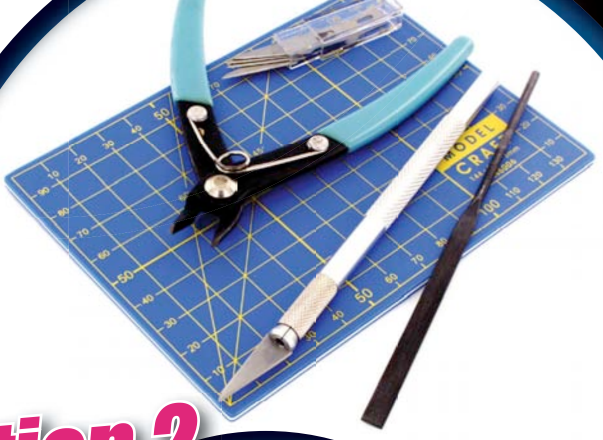

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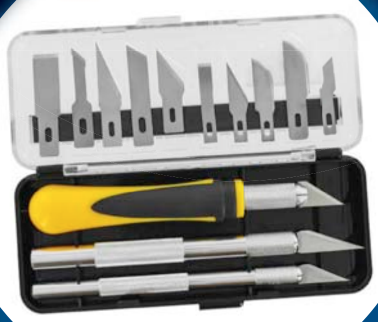

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MONSIEUR PINOCCHIO

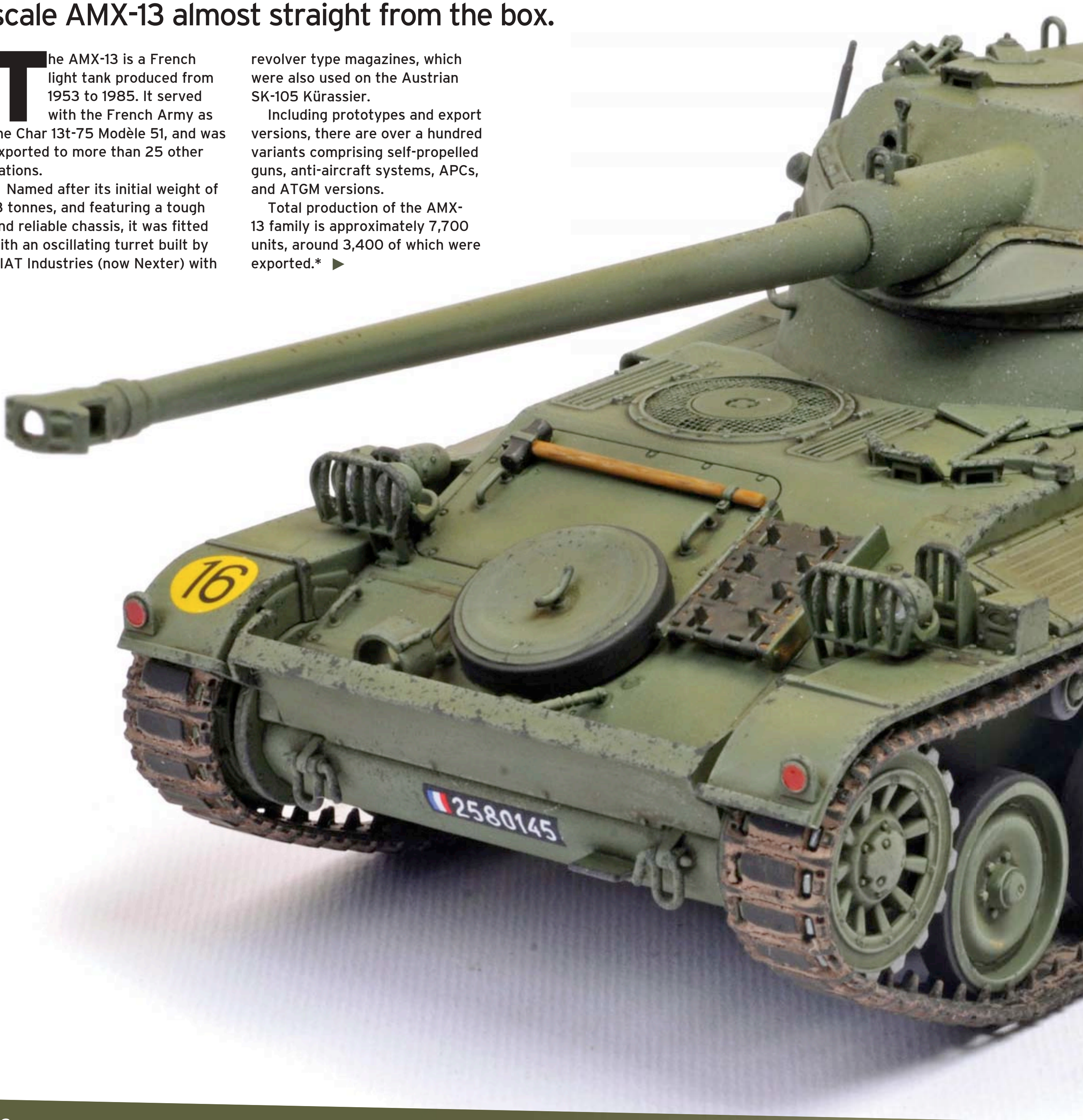
Brett Green builds Tamiya's brand new 1:35 scale AMX-13 almost straight from the box.

The AMX-13 is a French light tank produced from 1953 to 1985. It served with the French Army as the Char 13t-75 Modèle 51, and was exported to more than 25 other nations.

Named after its initial weight of 13 tonnes, and featuring a tough and reliable chassis, it was fitted with an oscillating turret built by GIAT Industries (now Nexter) with revolver type magazines, which were also used on the Austrian SK-105 Kürassier.

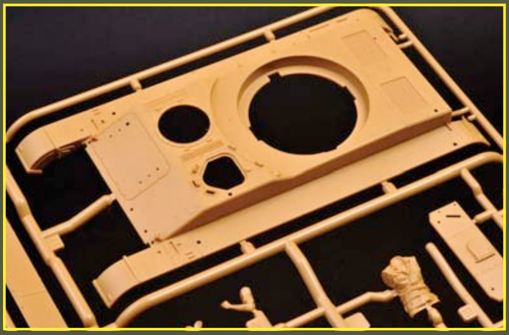
Including prototypes and export versions, there are over a hundred variants comprising self-propelled guns, anti-aircraft systems, APCs, and ATGM versions.

Total production of the AMX-13 family is approximately 7,700 units, around 3,400 of which were exported.* ▶

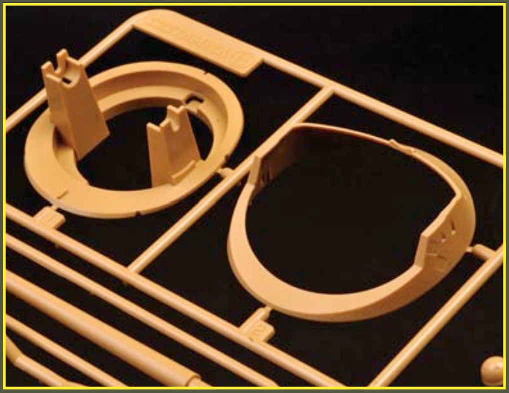


FRENCH LIGHT TANK AMX-13
フランス軽戦車 AMX-13
TAMIYA

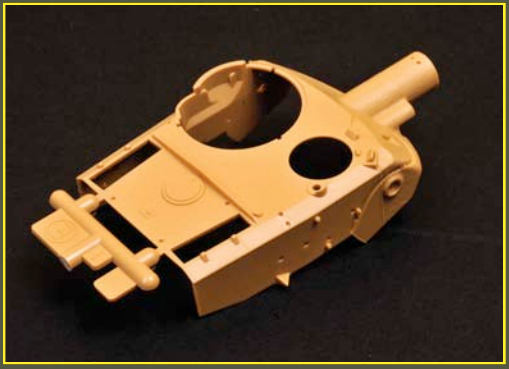
Tamiya's box art.



The one-piece upper hull.



The lower sections of the oscillating turret.



The upper turret shell.

(35349) 14703011

A photo-etched grille is provided.

◀ IN THE BOX

Tamiya's brand new 1:35 scale AMX-13 comprises 219 parts in tan coloured plastic, two full-length vinyl tracks, one photo-etched part, 20 polythene caps and decals for two marking options.

Moulding quality is excellent although some of the detail parts, notably the brush guards for the lights, are a bit chunky.

Construction of the hull and running gear is quick and easy thanks to the lower hull tub and the fairly simple arrangement of the road wheels. Swing arms and return roller mounts are provided as separate parts. The wheels and drive sprockets may be pressed into place using poly caps.

The upper hull is also held in place with a polythene cap, although you could glue it in place if you wish.

The tracks are full length flexible vinyl, meaning that it won't be simple to achieve sag along the top run unless they are replaced. Detail and moulding quality is good though.

Don't get me wrong - I think that full-length felxible vinyl has its place for subjects with "live" or active tracks that do not display any sag. Examples include Sherman tanks and many modern western tanks. However, most reference photos show sag along the top run of AMX-13s, so it would have been nice if Tamiya had offered link and length tracks similar to their recent SU-76M.

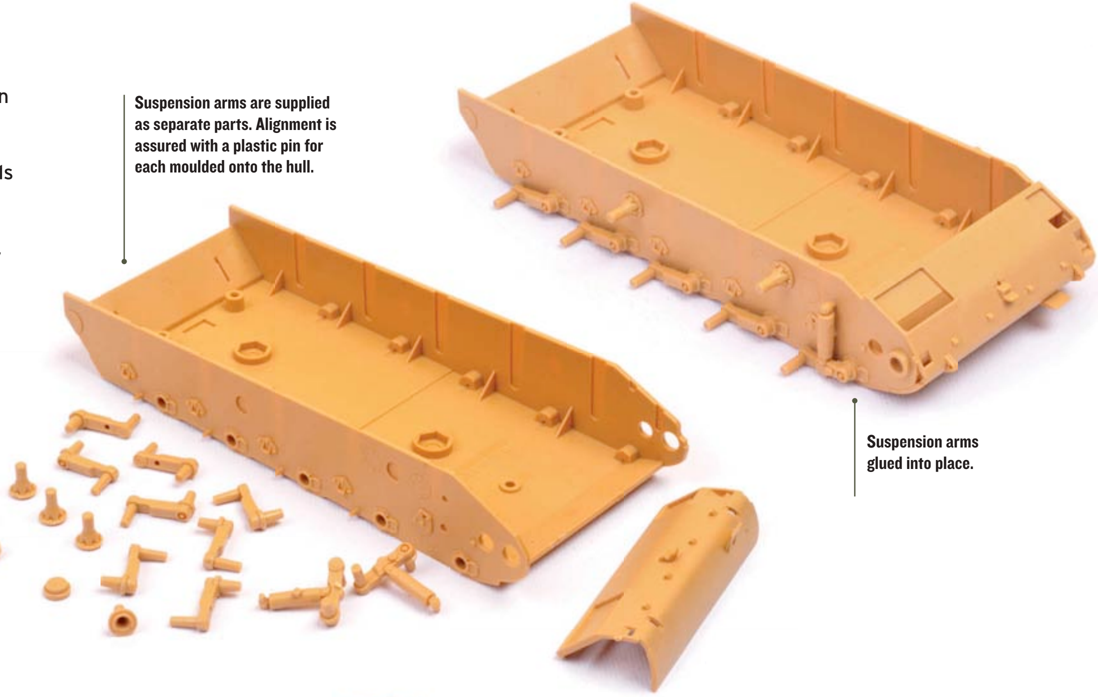
The gun travel lock and its brace are both hinged and may be left workable if you are careful with the application of glue.

The turret is designed to allow the oscillating gun to elevate if the moulded canvas cover is omitted. Tamiya supplies separate mounting strips for this option. However, the cover with its realistic draping is so nicely moulded that I will definitely be gluing this in place.

A well moulded Commander figure is included, as is photo-etched mesh to cover the circular front engine vent.

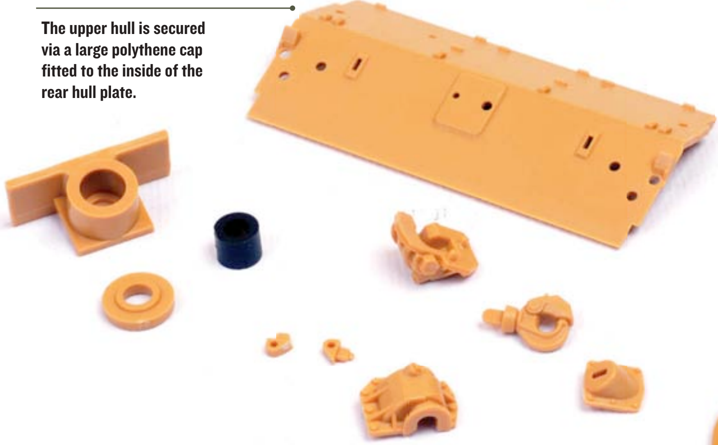
Markings are supplied for two French vehicles in overall green.

Clear parts are not included. Solid plastic lenses are supplied for the lights, but as these are separate parts the modeller can replace them with clear lenses from an after-market source if so desired.



Suspension arms are supplied as separate parts. Alignment is assured with a plastic pin for each moulded onto the hull.

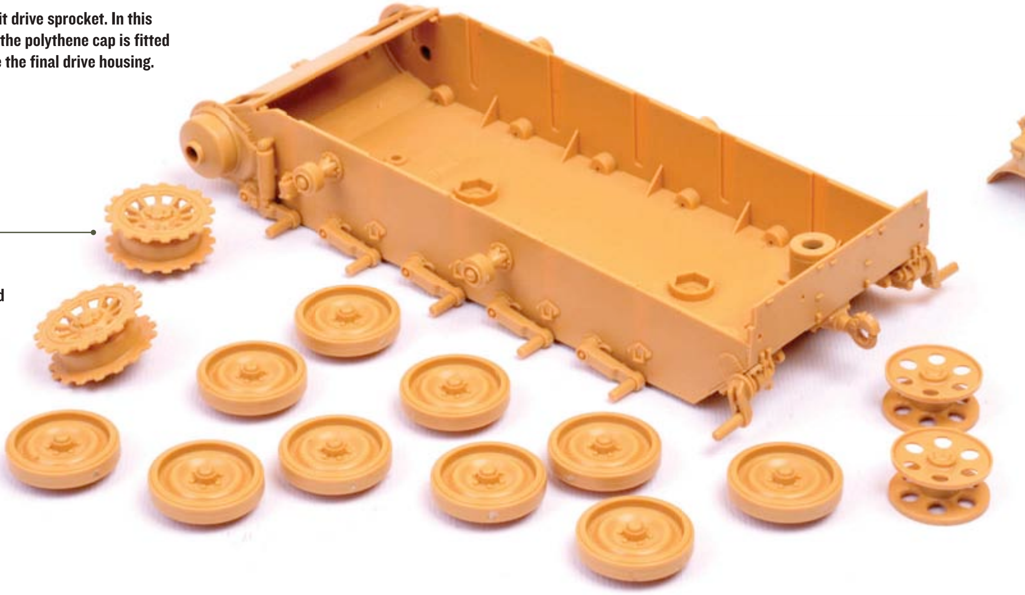
Suspension arms glued into place.



The upper hull is secured via a large polythene cap fitted to the inside of the rear hull plate.

Poly caps are also used to fit the road wheels and idler wheels.

The kit drive sprocket. In this case, the polythene cap is fitted inside the final drive housing.



The running gear assembled and ready to be added to the lower hull.

CONSTRUCTION

Typically for a Tamiya kit, this was a very fast and enjoyable build.

At first I was not particularly inspired by the plain green French schemes included on the decal sheet, so I thought that I would finish mine as an Israeli machine. I ordered Israeli decals and even a Takom AMX-13/90 kit so that I could pilfer the prominent turret searchlight, but further research indicated that the stowage details were quite unalike and that Israeli AMX-13s used a different style of track. I could compromise accuracy or just bite the bullet and go with the green French option.

I decided on the latter.

There are no tricks or traps to speak of during construction, and fit is excellent.

The road wheels, drive sprockets and idler wheels are all press-fitted using polythene caps. This makes things very easy for painting and final assembly.

I thought that I would replace the solid headlight lenses with clear parts, so I did not fit the solid light covers during the main phase of construction.

Although the upper hull is held in place with a poly cap at the rear and a tab/slot arrangement at the front, once the front hull stowage – spare road wheel and spare tracks – are glued into place, the upper hull is essentially permanently fixed.

SAGGING THE TRACKS

At this stage I glued the tracks together and test-fitted them on the running gear. The fit was good but the top run was floating above the return rollers. I would have to take some action to settle these down.

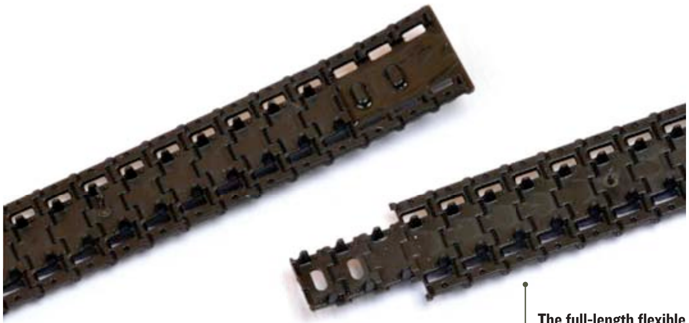
I remembered something I used to do when building armour kits as a kid. Of course, in those days there were no individual link tracks – it was all "rubber band" tracks with the ends melted together using a hot screwdriver.

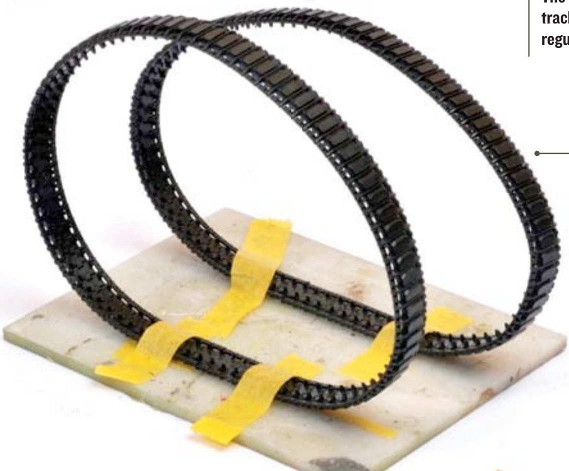
When I wanted to represent sag along the top run of a full-length flexible track, I would glue pins into the sides of the lower hull to force the tracks down between the return rollers.

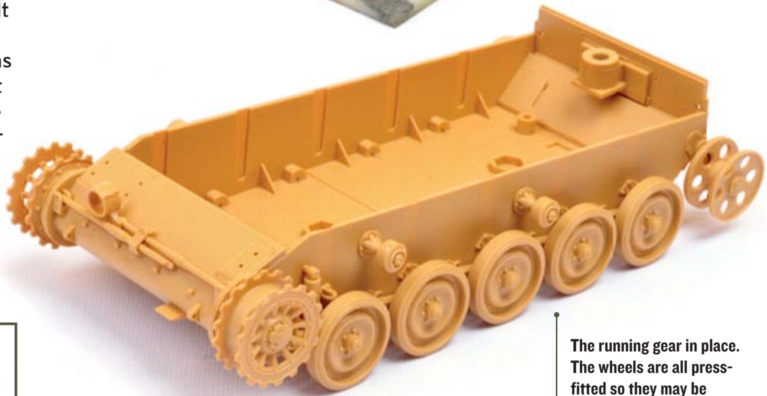
Fast forward to 2016, and I applied the same principle using brass rod. I marked the appropriate location and drilled out three holes on each side of the lower hull before feeding three brass rods through from one side to the other.

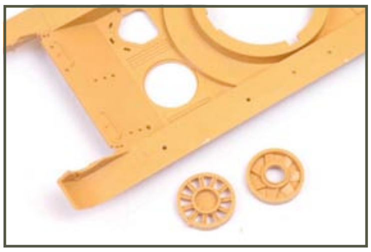
I made this job far more difficult for myself by doing it after the upper hull was fixed in place. Do as I say, and not as I do – if you want to try this, drill the holes and glue the rods in place before the upper hull is attached!

Once the rods are in place, you can add the running gear and track at any time after by weaving the top run between the rods and the return rollers. ▶

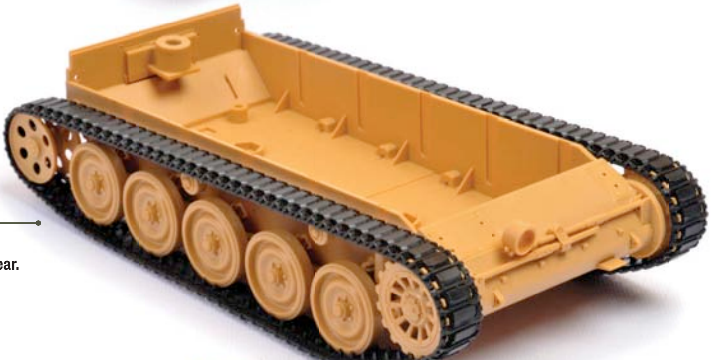

The full-length flexible tracks may be joined using regular plastic cement.

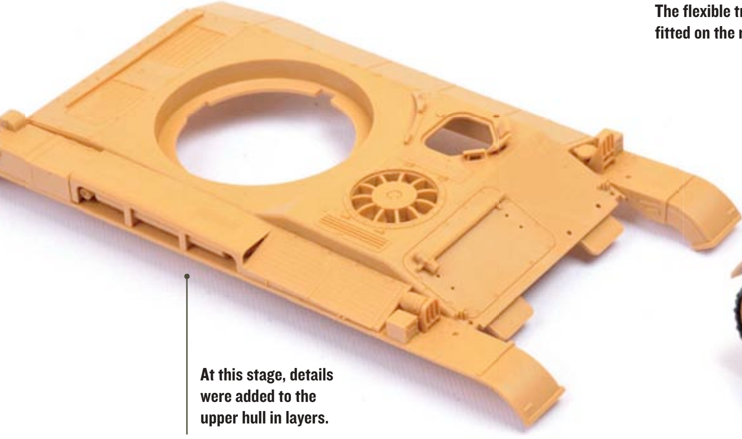

I taped the tracks to a piece of Perspex while the glue set.

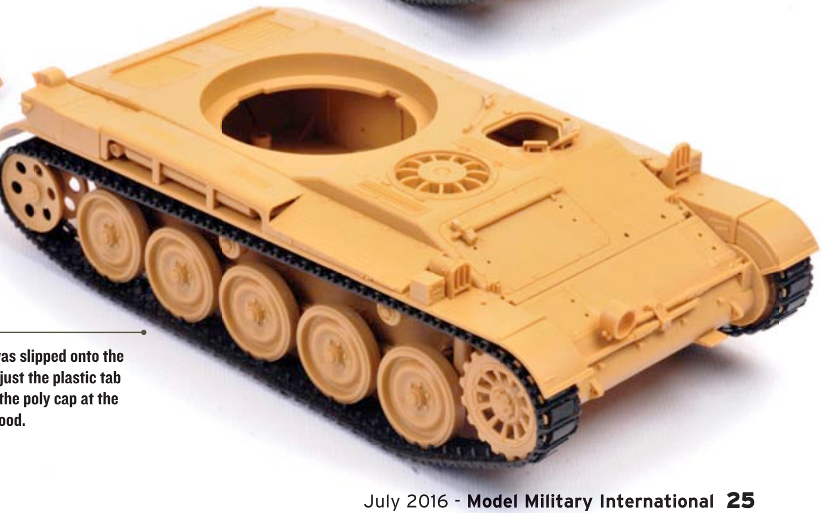

The running gear in place. The wheels are all press-fitted so they may be removed laterfor painting.

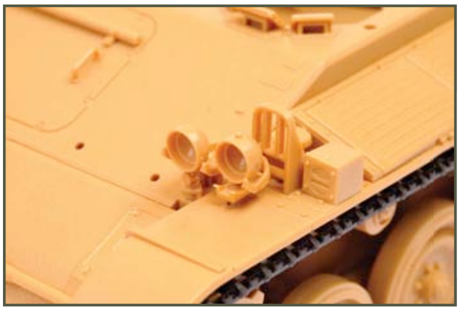

The engine grille has a solid plastic fan below, avoiding that awkward see-through look!

Stowage boxes and exhaust.

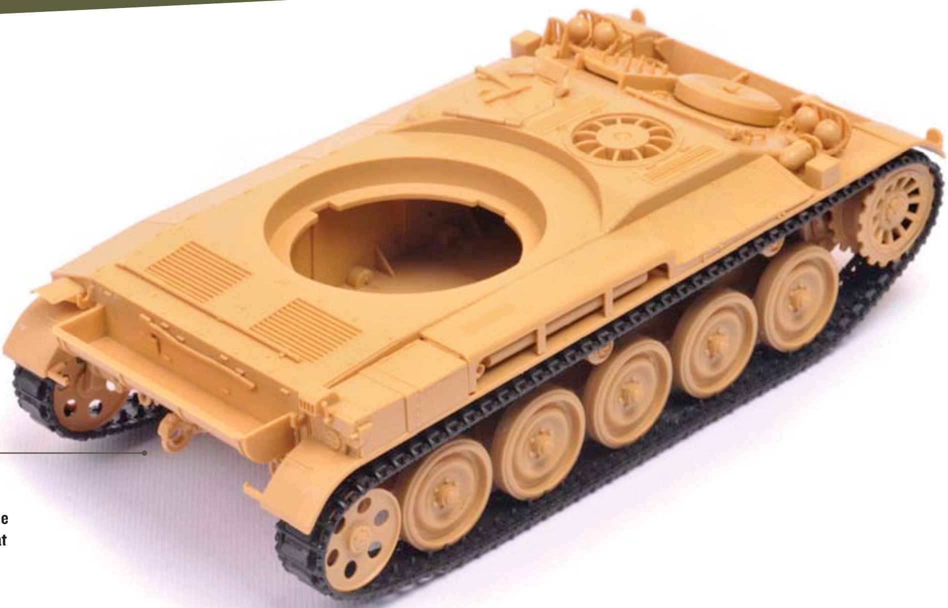

The flexible tracks test fitted on the running gear.


At this stage, details were added to the upper hull in layers.

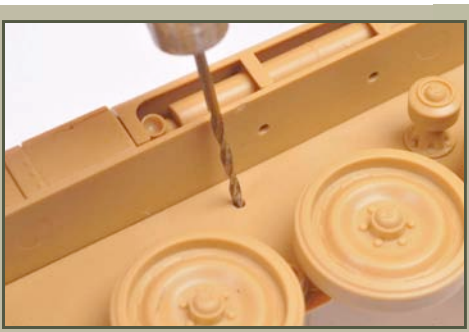

The upper hull was slipped onto the lower hull using just the plastic tab at the front and the poly cap at the rear. So far, so good.



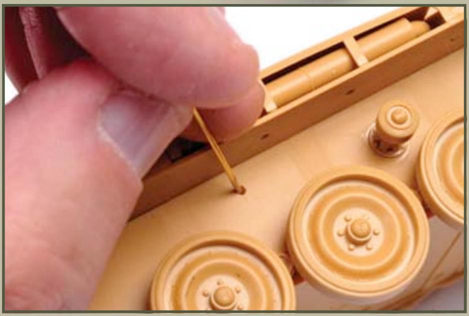
I left off the solid headlight lenses at this stage.



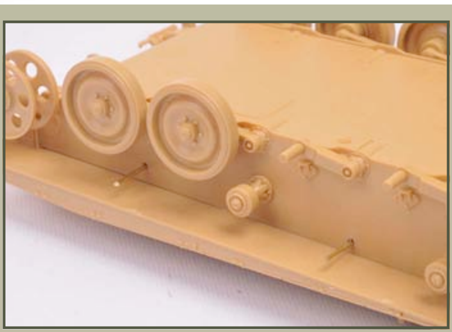
All the details have now been glued to the upper hull. Note that once the spare tracks and spare road wheel have been glued to the front of the hull, it will not be possible (or at least practical) to remove the upper hull.



Three holes were drilled into each of the lower hull sides.



Brass rod was fed through the hole to the corresponding hole on the other side.



These brass rods will press down on the tracks between the return rollers, creating the impression of sag.

PAINTING AND MARKINGS

I disassembled the running gear for painting.

Tamiya's instructions recommend Tamiya AS-14 Olive Green (USAF) as the base colour. This is in their spray can range. I thought the colour looked interesting – more green than olive and a medium shade – and ideal for a base colour.

I decanted the paint into a jar by attaching a straw to the nozzle and directing the flow into a small glass bottle.

I sprayed a paler shade on the horizontal surfaces, near the top of the turret and hull sides, and the front surfaces of the running gear. This was a mix of AS-14 Olive Green and a decanted quantity of Tamiya TS-68 Wooden Deck Tan (another spray can colour).

Initial weathering comprised an overall brushed coat of SIN Industries P425 Green for Allied Tanks. When this had dried, I applied a more selective pin wash using a mix of Winsor & Newton Lamp Black and Raw Umber oil paints thinned with Zippo lighter fluid. The lighter fluid dries much faster than conventional thinners.

The model was now dry-brushed with successively paler shades of the base colour, mixed from Vallejo acrylics. The palest dry-brush was only applied to the very high spots of the model.

Chipping was applied with my J's Work Chipping Pen set – essentially a sponge stuck onto a wooden handle. This is a really handy little tool, and with a half dozen different sponge densities, quite versatile for any chipping task. The key is to build up the chips gradually by laying off most of the paint from the sponge before it touches the model.

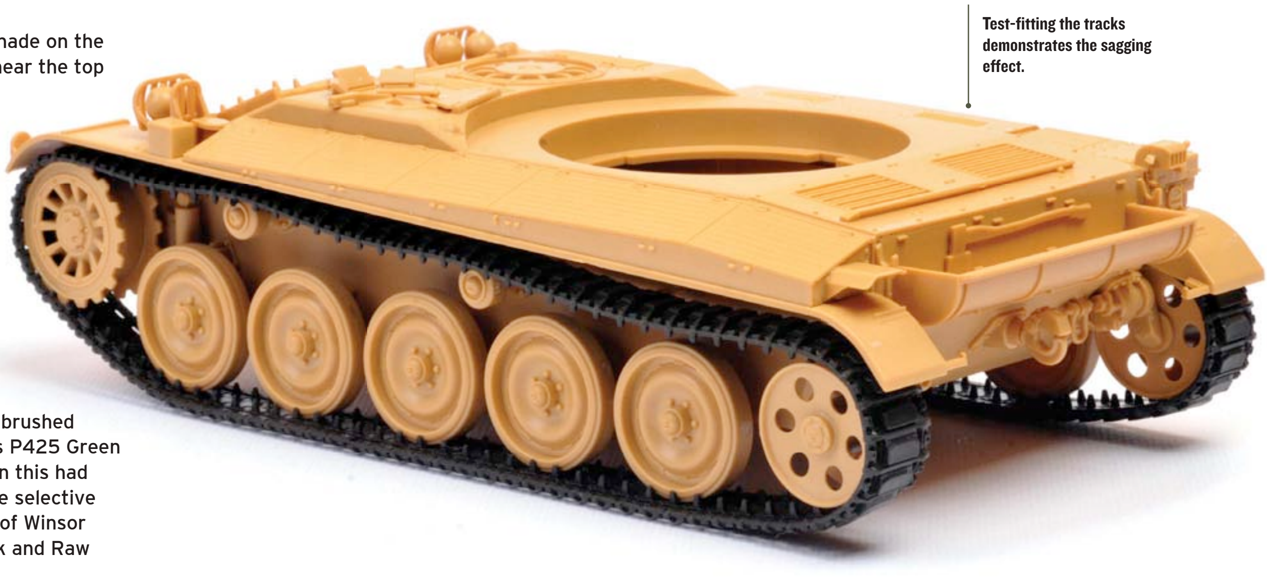
I used Vallejo Panzer Aces 337 Highlight Ger. (Black) as the colour of the chips

Tools, handles, straps and tyres were now all painted using Vallejo acrylics and a fine brush.

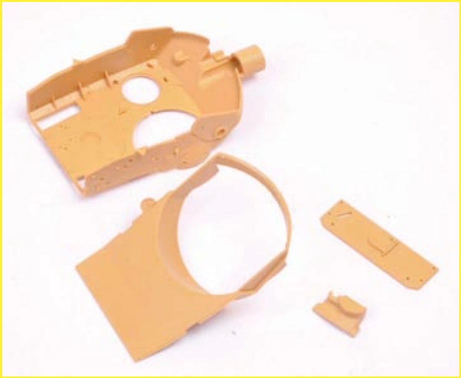
I also brush-painted the flexible mantlet cover with a mixed shade, paler than the base colour, using several Vallejo acrylics.

The model was then sprayed with two thin coats of Future Floor Polish, and the kit decals were applied.

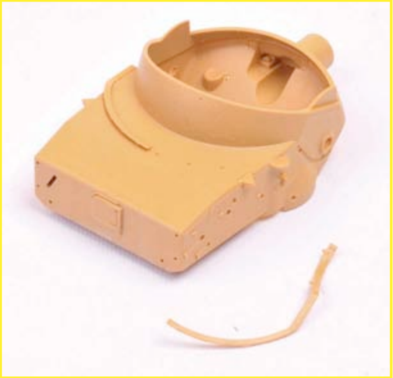
The completed paint and weathering was sealed with two coats of Alclad II Flat Clear Lacquer for a dead flat finish. ▶



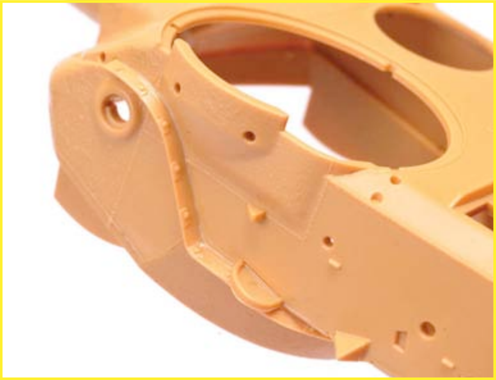
Test-fitting the tracks demonstrates the sagging effect.



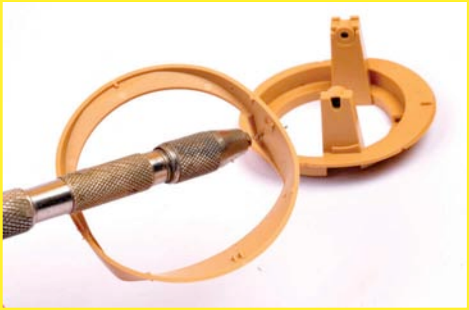
The main parts for the upper turret section.



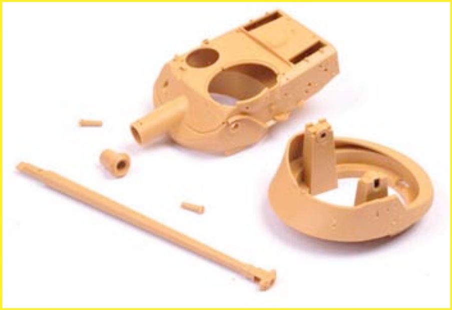
The mounting strips for the flexible cover are supplied as separate parts.



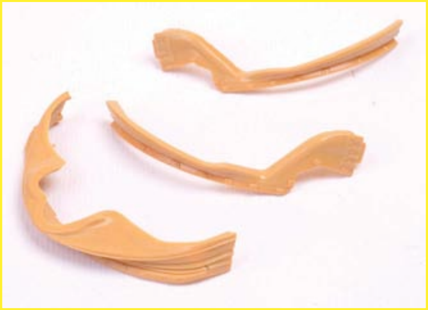
This is how the upper rear strips show look when fitted.



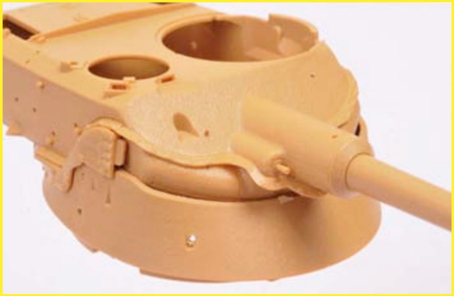
Holes must be drilled out of the lower turret section before it is assembled.



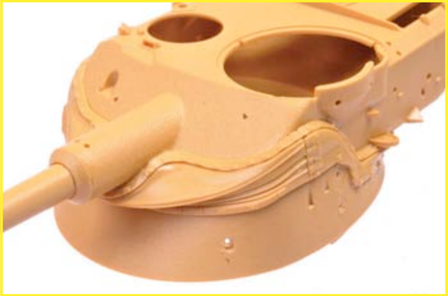
The upper and lower turret sections are held together with plastic pins, allowing the upper section to oscillate like the rear thing. However, this will only remain the case if the mantlet cover is not fitted.



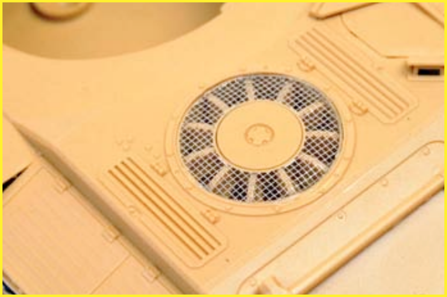
I decided to fit the cover and fix the elevation of the turret. Here are the three parts that make up the cover.



The upper and lower turret halves joined and awaiting the cover.

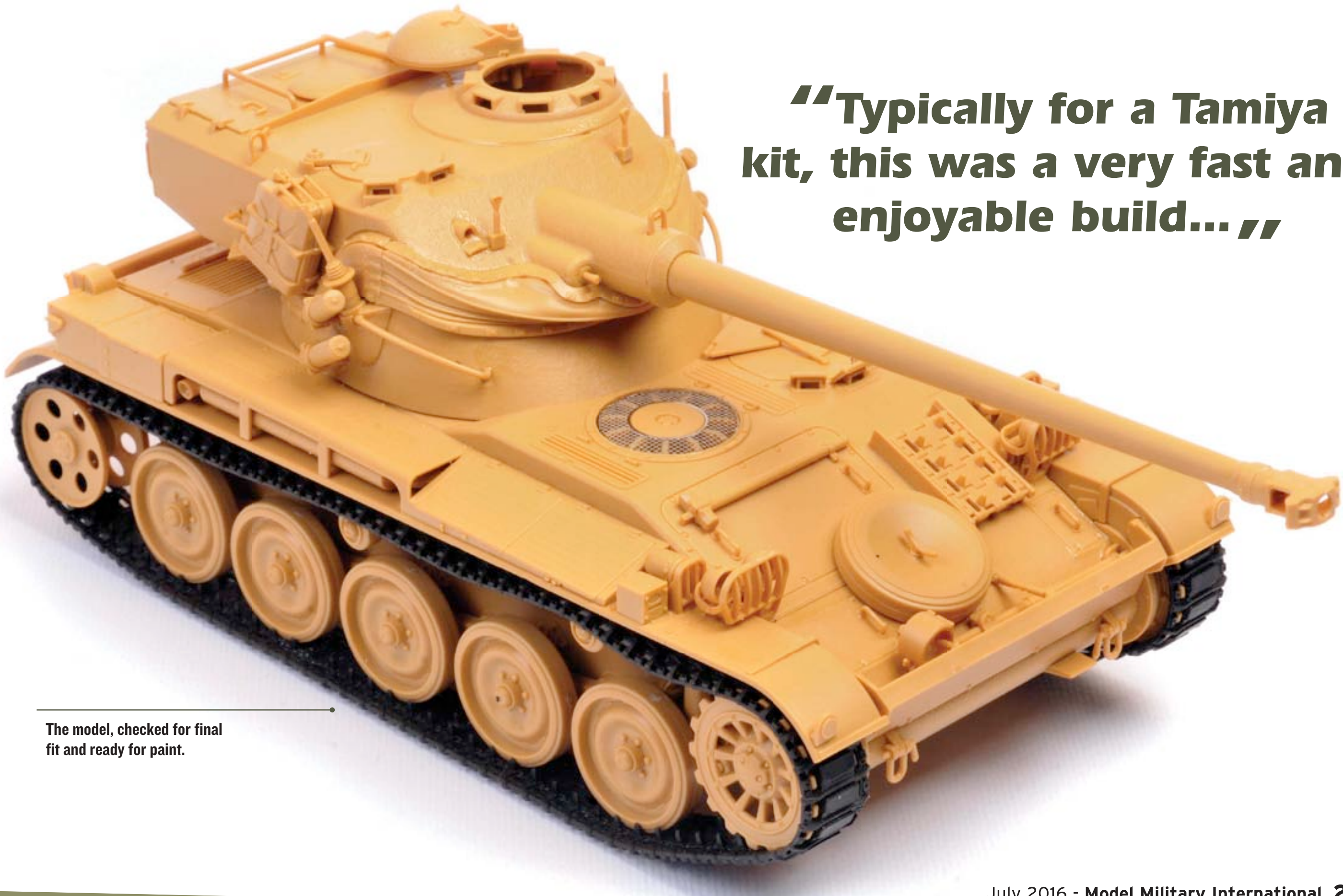


The cover glued in place.



The photo-etched mesh was glued to the engine vent using spots of super glue.

> **"Typically for a Tamiya kit, this was a very fast and enjoyable build…"**



The model, checked for final fit and ready for paint.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Looking at the headlights, there was very little that could be seen of the lenses between the heavy brush guards so I decided not to waste four clear lenses here. Instead, I painted the solid plastic lenses grey while they were still on the sprues, then added a white spot and a white streak to each, followed by a glossy coat of Future Floor Polish. The white spot and streak are supposed to represent random reflections.

The painted lenses were now cut from their sprues and glued to the front of the lights.

The vinyl track loops were sprayed with a mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown. Although I was trying to avoid unnecessary weathering, I decided to add a little dried mud to highlight the tracks' rubber blocks.

Easy Mud – 21105 European Earth was stippled onto the inside and outside surfaces of the tracks. I rubbed most of the Easy Mud off the tracks using a soft cloth, leaving a pleasing residue in the treads.

Once this had dried, the road wheels were pressed onto their axles and the track was looped around the drive sprocket, which was also pressed into place. The top run was now woven above the return rollers and below the brass rods. The final step was to slip the back loop of the track over the idler wheel, then press the idler wheel home.

COMMANDER FIGURE

I painted up the Commander figure and replaced his solid goggles with a spare clear set from Tamiya's recent "Easy Eight" Sherman kit.

The figure was assembled using Revell Contacta cement, but the head and helmet were not glued in place just yet. The components were drilled and mounted on toothpicks to make handling easier.

First, all the components were primed with Tamiya Fine White Primer straight from the spray can.

Next, the face and forearms were brush painted with mix of Vallejo Panzer Aces 341 Flesh Base and Model Color 70815 Base Skin Tone as a base for the skin tones. This was followed by a fairly heavy wash of thinned Rowney Georgian Oil Paint 221 Burnt Sienna, which flowed nicely into low-lying areas including the mouths and eyes.

Painting of the skin tones continued with the highlights – bridge of the nose, cheekbones, chin and ears – brush painted with Vallejo Panzer Aces acrylics 342 Flesh Highlight. ▶

Turret, tracks and running gear were all disassembled before a coat of Tamiya Grey Primer straight from the can.

AS-14
OLIVE GREEN
(USAF)

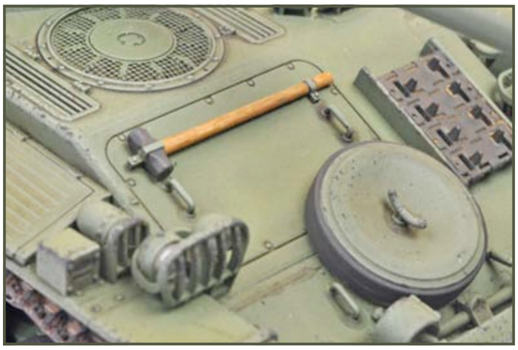
The base colour was Tamiya AS-14 Olive Green (USAF) decanted into a glass jar and applied with my Iwata HP-CP airbrush.

A paler shade was sprayed onto the horizontal surfaces, near the top of the turret and hull sides, and the front surfaces of the running gear

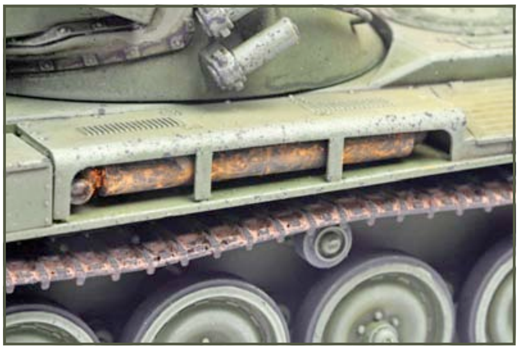
Initial weathering comprised an overall brushed coat of SIN Industries P425 Green for Allied Tanks.

Next, a more selective pin wash was applied using a mix of Winsor & Newton Lamp Black and Raw Umber oil paints thinned with Zippo lighter fluid.

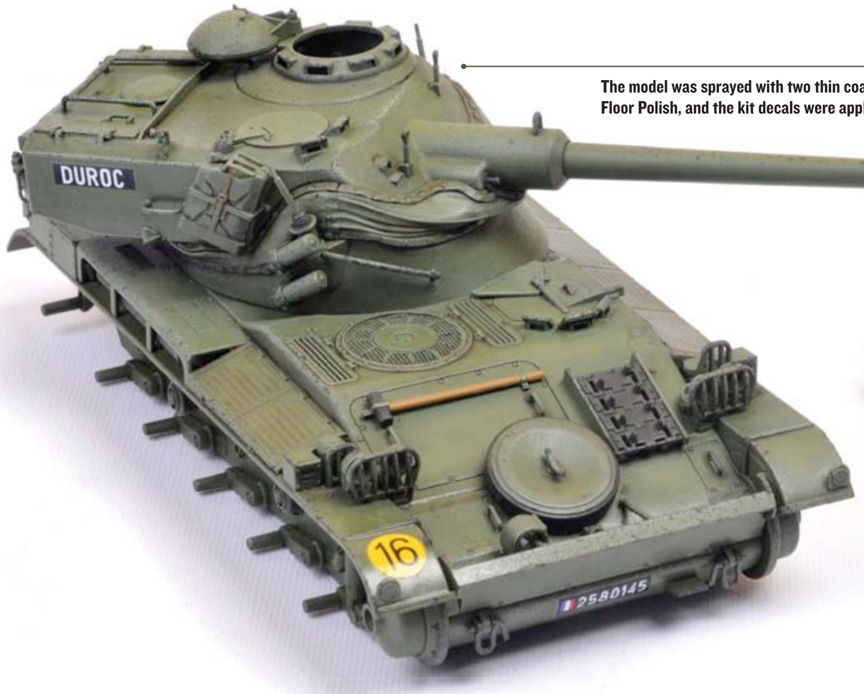
Chipping was applied with a J's Work Chipping Pen.



Tools, handles, straps and tyres were now all painted using Vallejo acrylics and a fine brush.

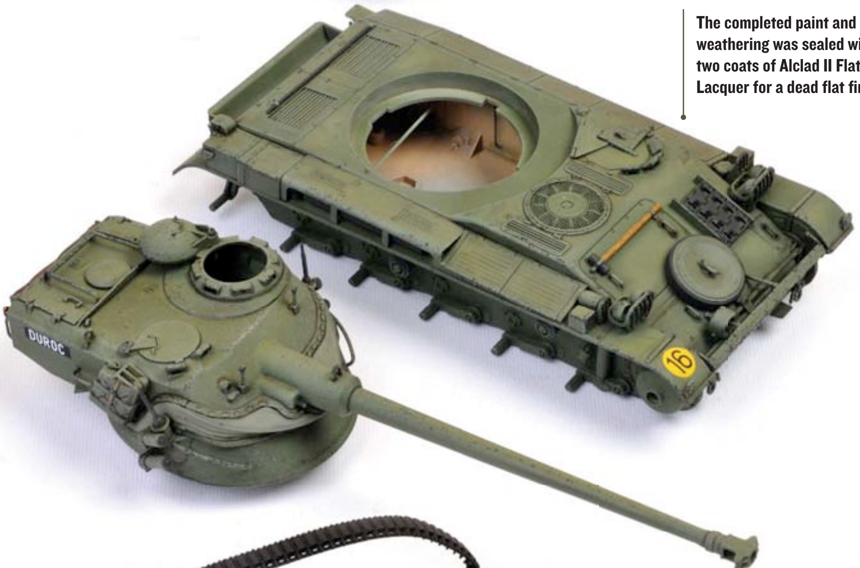


The exhaust was weathered with MiG "Fresh Rust" pigment.



The model was sprayed with two thin coats of Future Floor Polish, and the kit decals were applied.

Wheels and sprockets were tacked to small cardboard boxes and sprayed separately. These have been dry-brushed with a paler shade of the base colour to highlight detail.



The completed paint and weathering was sealed with two coats of Alclad II Flat Clear Lacquer for a dead flat finish.

The teeth of the drive sprockets were painted with Vallejo acrylic Oily Steel to represent wear and tear.

The vinyl track loops were sprayed with a mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown.

Maru Technics
EASY MUD
European Earth
21105 Net 40g

Easy Mud – 21105 European Earth was stippled onto the inside and outside surfaces of the tracks.

Most of the Easy Mud was rubbed off the tracks using a soft cloth, leaving a pleasing residue in the treads.

◀ The base uniform colours were also sourced from Vallejo's acrylic range. A wash of thinned Winsor & Newtown Raw Umber oil paint was brushed over the uniform colours and allowed to dry before further highlights and shading with more Vallejo acrylics.

The head and helmet were attached to the bodies at this stage. I also added a strap for the goggles from a narrow strip of painted Tamiya tape.

The figure painting was completed with two generous coats of Alclad II Flat Clear.

CONCLUSION

This is a nice kit with lovely surface textures, excellent moulding quality and a decent level of detail.

Some will be disappointed with the lack of clear parts and individual track links, but in reality the tracks can be sagged and the headlights are almost invisible behind the substantial brush guards.

Tamiya's 1:35 AMX-13 makes for an attractive and unusual display piece straight from the box. ■

Modelspec

Tamiya 1:35 French Light Tank AMX-13 Kit No. 35349

Accessories and Decals Used:

Spare set of clear goggles from Tamiya M4A3E8 "Easy Eight" Sherman

Tools and Materials Used:

Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement
Revell Contacta Professional Cement
Selley's Supa Glue
Tamiya 10mm Masking Tape
Tamiya Liquid Surface Primer
Gunze Mr Surfacer 500
Microscale Industries Kristal Klear
Iwata HP-CH Airbrush

Paints and Finishing Products:

Vehicle:
Tamiya Spray Grey Primer
Tamiya Spray Can: AS-14 Olive Green (USAF); AS-15 USAF Tan
Tamiya Acrylics: X-27 Clear Red; XF-1 Flat Black; XF-2 Flat White; XF-49 Khaki; XF-64 Red Brown.
Vallejo Panzer Aces Acrylics - 310 Old Wood; 311 New Wood; 337 Highlight Ger. (Black)
Vallejo Model Color – 919 Foundation White;
Alclad II Flat Clear Lacquer
Sin Industries Filter – P425 Green for Allied Tanks
MIG Productions Earth Wash
Winsor & Newton Oil Paints – Lamp Black; Raw Umber
Zippo Lighter Fluid (as oil paint thinner)
2B Pencil
Crew Figure:
Flesh
Base Coat: Tamiya White Primer followed by mix of Panzer Aces 341 Flesh Base and Model Color 70815 Base Skin Tone.
Wash: Rowney Georgian Oil Paint 221 Burnt Sienna.
Variations and Highlights: Vallejo Panzer Aces acrylics 342 Flesh Highlight
Uniforms
Uniform: Tamiya XF-49 Khaki. Dry-brush with Vallejo Model Color 70988 Khaki
Helmet: Mix of Tamiya XF-62 Olive Drab and XF-20 Sky Grey.
Belt and Undershirt: Mix of Vallejo Model Color 70893 US Dark Green and 70922 USA Uniform.
Wash: Winsor & Newtown Raw Umber thinned with Zippo Lighter Fluid.
Borders and Additional Shading: Vallejo Panzer Aces 337 Highlight Ger. (Black).

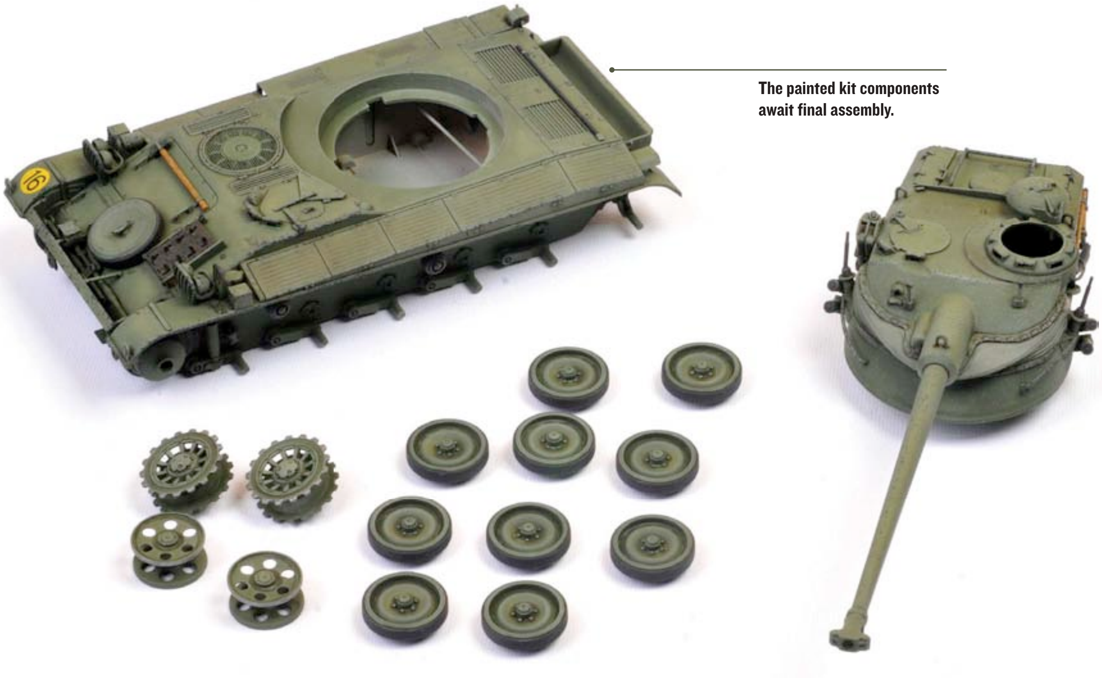
✓ Excellent fit; easy and fast build; good level of detail.

✗ A few chunky details (e.g. plastic brush guards); missing vision blocks; solid headlight lenses.

Available from

Thanks to Tamiya for the sample www.tamiya.com
Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

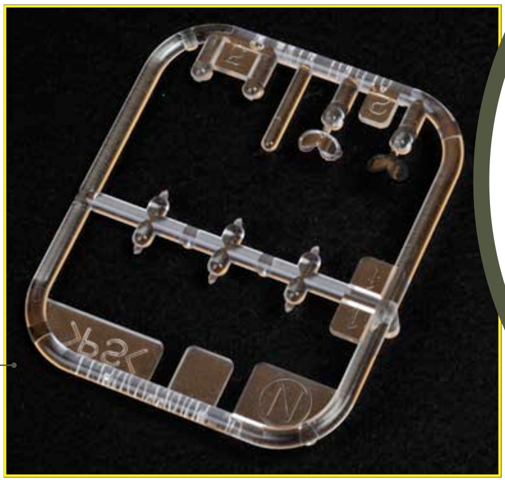
Rating ●●●●●●●●○○



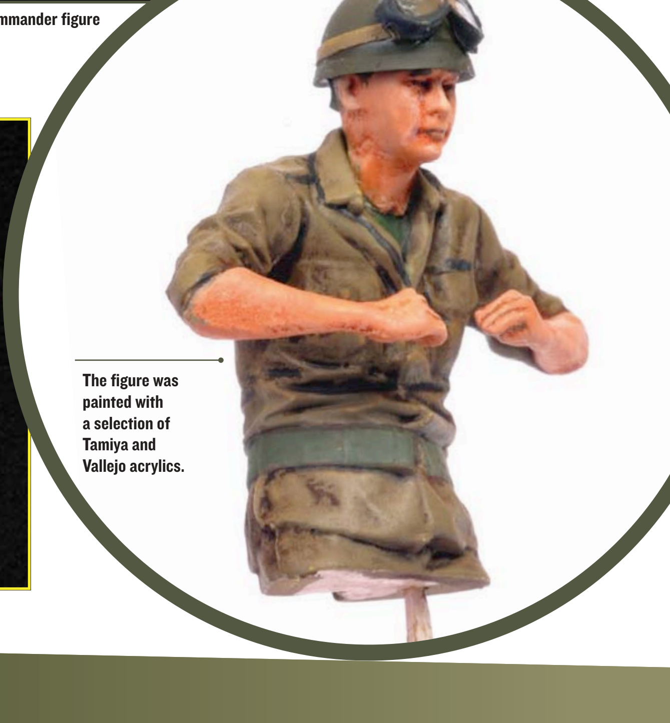
The painted kit components await final assembly.

The solid plastic lenses were painted grey then a white spot and a white streak to was added to each before a gloss coat. The white spot and streak are supposed to represent random reflections.

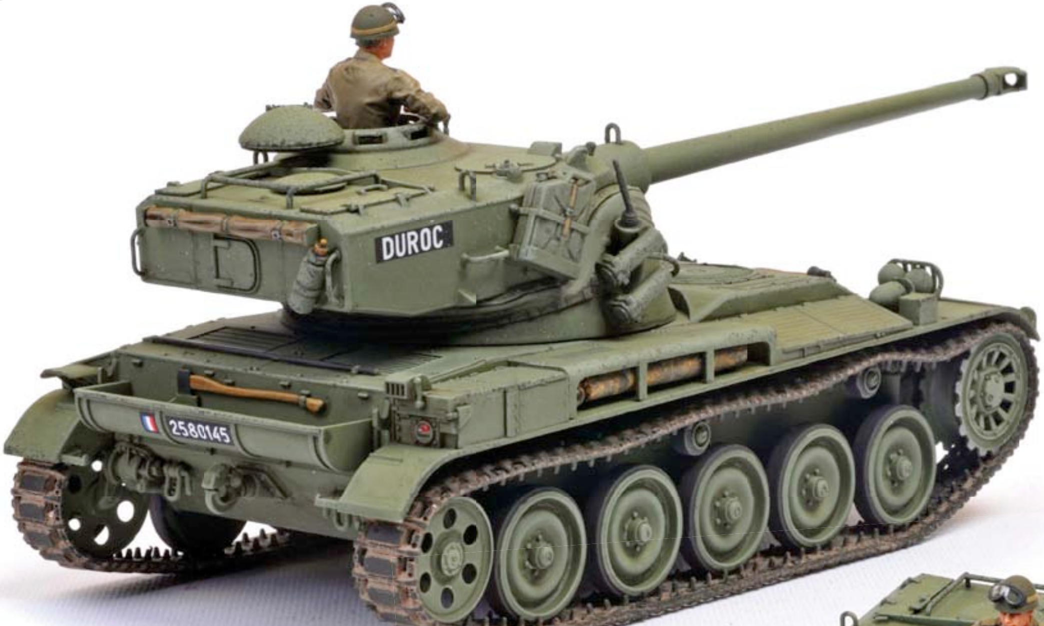
I painted up the kit's Commander figure



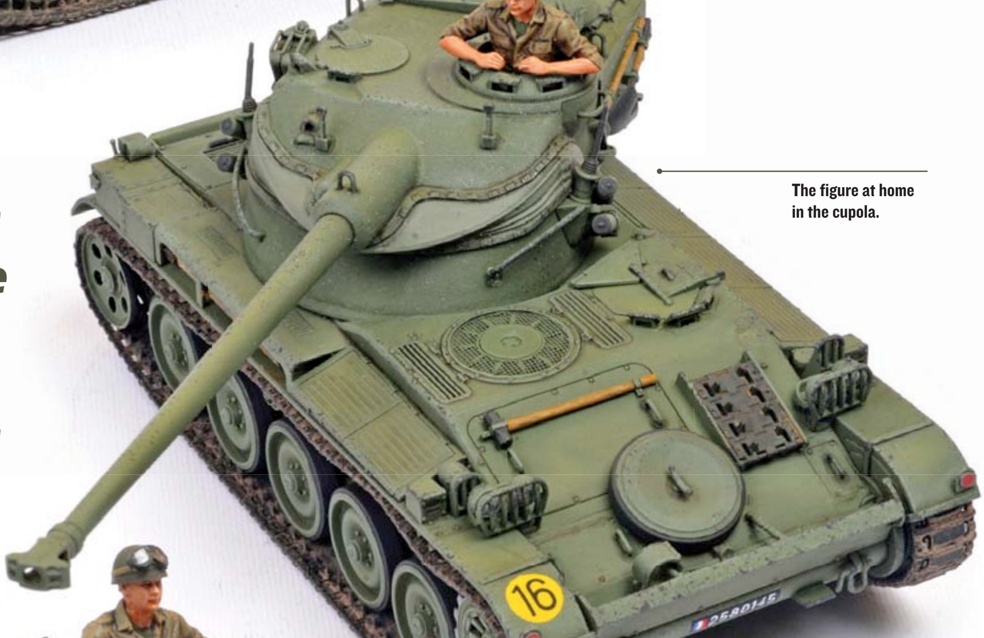
The solid goggles were replaced with a spare clear set from Tamiya's recent "Easy Eight" Sherman kit.



The figure was painted with a selection of Tamiya and Vallejo acrylics.

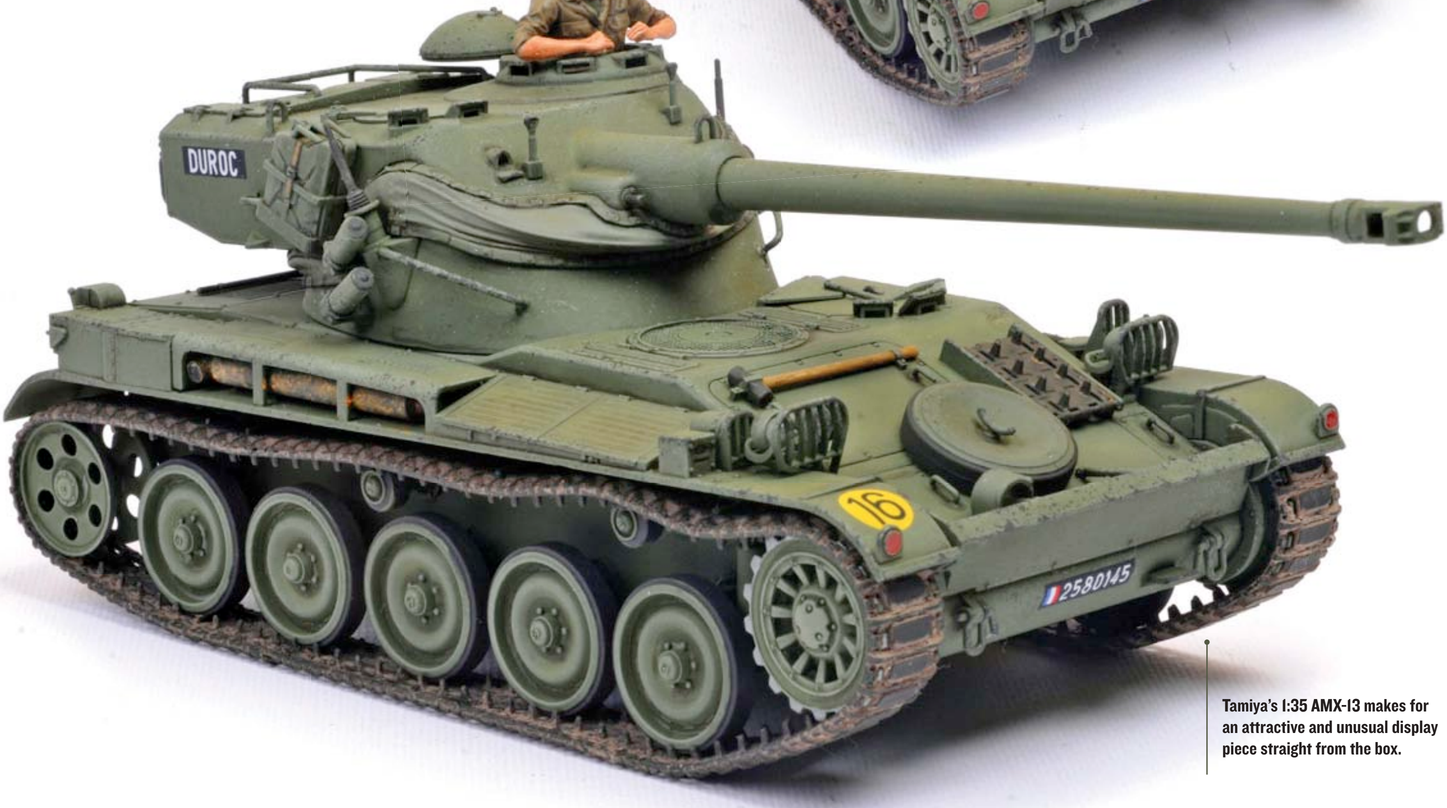


The sag of the top track run is very obvious from this angle.

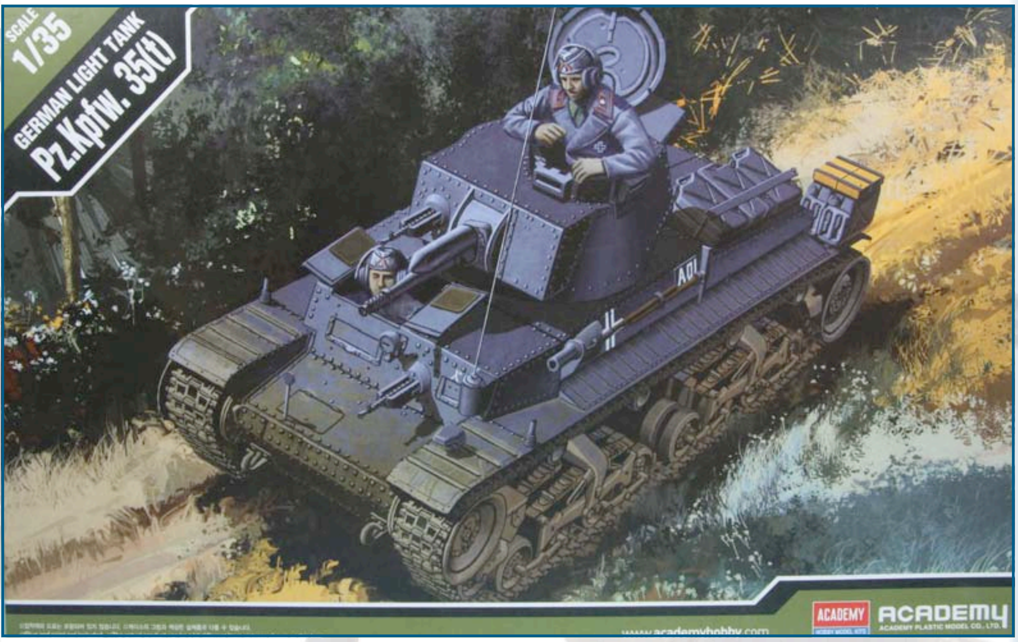


The figure at home in the cupola.

> **"This is a nice kit with lovely surface textures, excellent moulding quality and a decent level of detail..."**



Tamiya's 1:35 AMX-13 makes for an attractive and unusual display piece straight from the box.



CZECH PANZER

Andy King takes a look at Academy's re-issued 1:35 scale Pz.Kpfw. 35(t).

Originally built by Skoda as the Light Tank Model 35 (LT vz. 35) the Panzerkampfwagen or Pz.Kpfw 38(t) was pressed into service with the Wehrmacht after Germany invaded Czechoslovakia in 1939.

430 tanks had been built in total but after the invasion around 240 tanks were seized by the Germans although Slovakia acquired 52 when they declared independence from Czechoslovakia, while others were exported to Bulgaria and Romania.

Mainly seeing action in Poland, France and the Soviet Union, the tank was eventually retired from German service in 1942 after production had ceased and spares were no longer available plus the numerous shortcomings with the vehicle had rendered it obsolete. Other countries continued to use it for training though, with the Bulgarians operating the vehicle until 1950.

This is a reissue by Academy as the kit first appeared about three years ago. In the box you get 266 parts in grey styrene, a small decal sheet and a length of thread for the tow cables. All parts are well moulded with minimal flash present and the only visible pin marks are underneath the fenders. The detail is pretty good although I feel the rivet heads on the upper hull could be more prominent after comparing the parts to photographs of the real vehicle, however you would have to be fairly masochistic to want to replace them all. On the plus side the screw head slots are well defined.

Tracks are of the link-and-length variety with the upper run featuring a moulded track-sag, the individual links included are used around the drive sprockets and rear idlers.

There is no interior detail in the kit and the crew figures supplied are OK but with a bit of work they can be improved upon especially with the uniform details, the facial features are pretty good too.

The 37mm main gun is okay and like the crew figures can be improved upon with some work (and very fine drills) but a metal replacement would look much better, the same applies to the 7.92mm MG 37's as well.

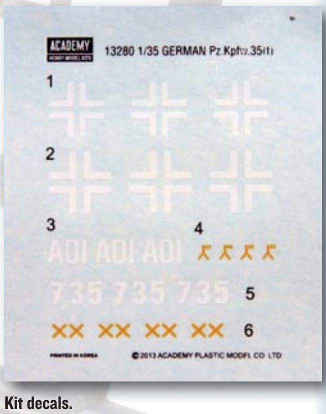
Looking at the construction, and the hull is a multi part assembly that will need care to get everything aligned. Fortunately there is an internal bulkhead that will help with this. The same can be said of the suspension bogies as these are made up from five parts each.

The racks for the jerry cans would look better replaced with thin styrene sheet or brass strip as they are a bit too thick and the on-vehicle equipment lack tool clamps.

Colour and markings are confined to overall grey with just two options from the 6th Panzer Division, one from France in 1940 and the other from Russia in 1941. Full marks go to Academy for printing a list of different paint manufacturers as not all the paints listed in kits are available in every country. Although the decal sheet is small they are in register and seem quite thin.

It's not one of the prettiest tanks to look at and had a pretty limited combat history but it's still an interesting enough vehicle. The colour scheme is typically drab for this period of service with the Wehrmacht however there are other more colourful options available such as those tanks used by Slovakian and Czech forces.

For a good look at this kit I would recommend obtaining issue 93 (January 2014) of Model Military International as it features our very own Brett Green's build of the same kit. ■


ACADEMY
13280 1/35 GERMAN Pz.Kpfw.35(t)
1
2
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A01 A01 A01
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6
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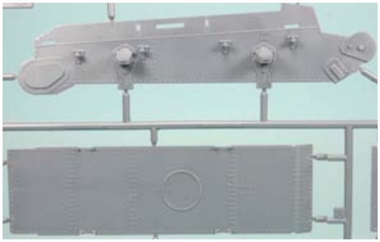
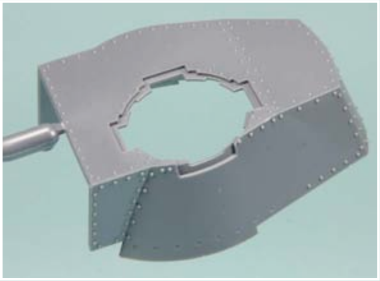
Kit decals.

Thanks to Academy for the sample http://academy.co.kr/eng/1p/1p_main.asp

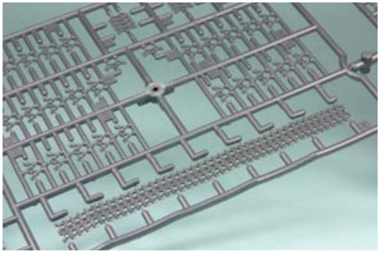
* History via Wikipedia and other internet sources



Rivet detail abounds, just as it did on the real vehicle.



The one-piece main turret shell.

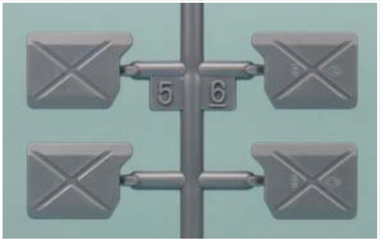


Link and length tracks.

Nice detail on one of the return rollers.

The nice Commander figure's torso.

The one-piece main gun barrel features recesses in the muzzle brake.



Jerry cans are supplied as stowage.

A choice of heads with different expressions and head-gear, depending on the period depicted.

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THE SOLDIER'S BRIDE

Horch 108, 1st Panzer Division, Russia 1941 by the Almería Modelismo Team

Model Assembly: Rafael León Luque
Panting: Carlos Alba López
Weathering, Base and Figure: Joaquín García Gázquez.
Translation: Francisco J. LaoMoya

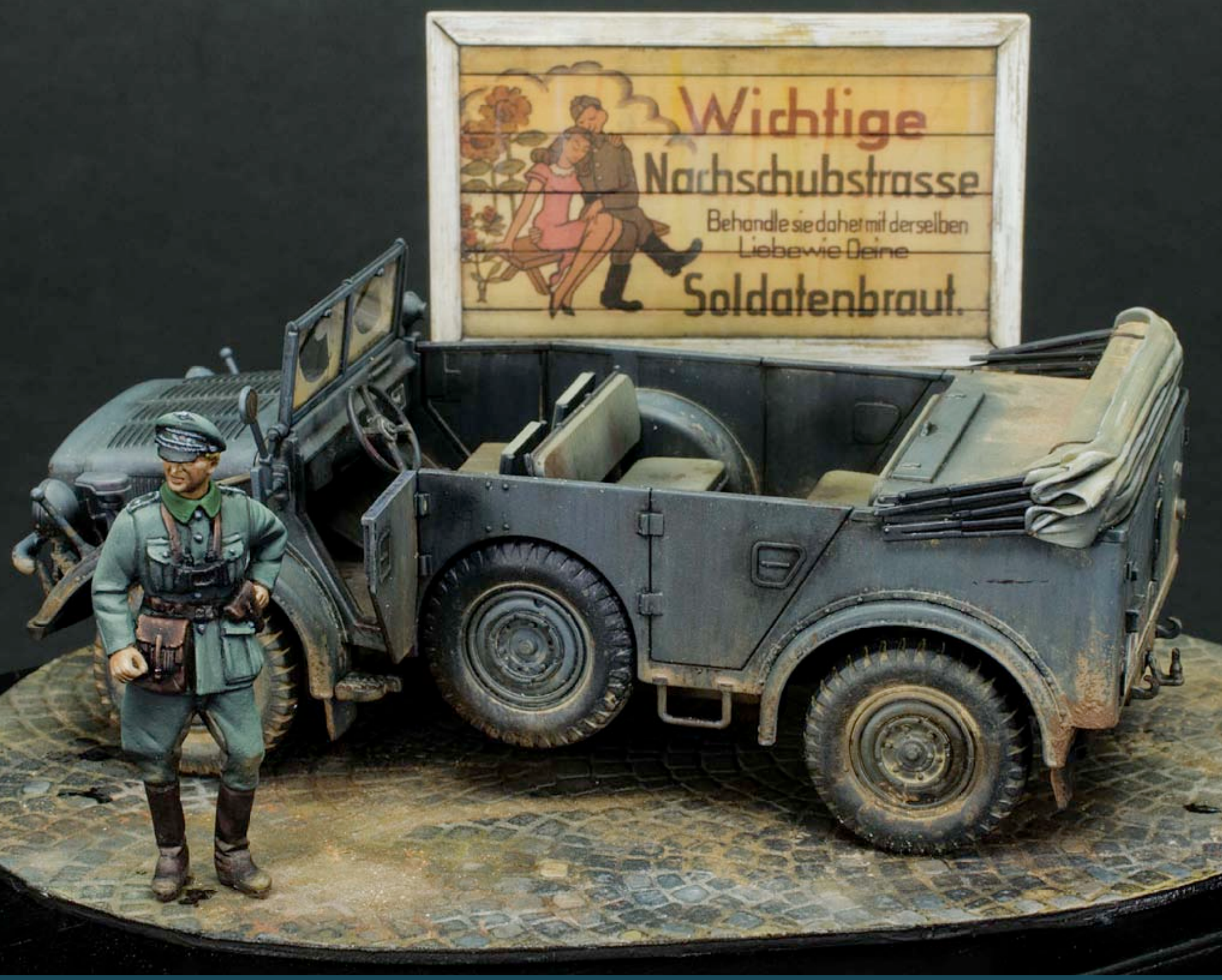
The Horch 108 vehicle was one of many kinds of 4x4 light trucks that the Wehrmacht used in its divisions. They saw service on all fronts. We can find different basic variations inside the Horch family:

- Horch 108 Typ a/b. Early production model. 1937-1938
- Horch 108 Typ 1a/1b, Ford EGa, EGb and EGd. They were manufactured from 1939 to 1940.
- Horch 108 Typ 40 Ford EG40, manufactured from 1940 to 1942.

These basic versions differed in axle designs, wheels and other smaller details such as parts location. For example, in the Typ 40, the spare wheel is not embedded in its side.

A 3,517cc Steyr gasoline engine was installed in this vehicle that provided 85hp providing a top speed of 90 km/h and range of 400 km. The vehicle was not armoured. Total weight was over 2,485 kg and although there was not any armament, many were fitted with improvised gun mounts for an MG 34 7.92 mm machine gun.

From 1937 to 1942, more than 10,000 vehicles were manufactured by both Horch and Ford. The Ford company, based in German territory, produced 1,911.



TAMIYA'S 1:48 HORCH IN THE BOX

Tamiya's 1:48 scale Horch has five dark grey sprues with a surprisingly small parts count. The chassis for example consist of just 13 pieces. As you would expect from Tamiya the quality of the moulding is outstanding with no pins mark or flash visible after assembly. Surface detail is very well done with subtle weld lines and rivets on the coach work being the stand out there.

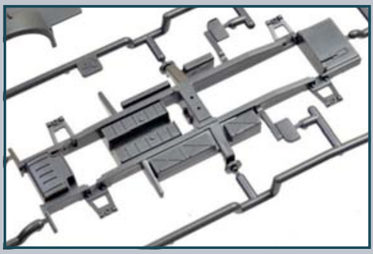
The kit allows for the front driver and passenger doors to be positioned in the open position but not the rear passenger doors. The front radiator grill bars are moulded solid on the radiator housing, which is generally standard practice. The detail here is acceptable, but I was expecting a little more as this is a prominent "see through" feature on the real vehicle.

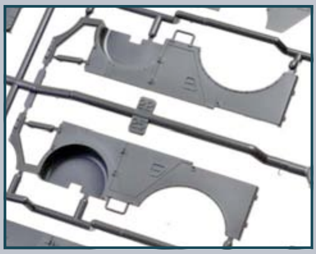
The wheels have the distinctive half round cut-out on the hub moulded in recess but as this is again a prominent feature on the real vehicle you may want to open these up for that see through effect.

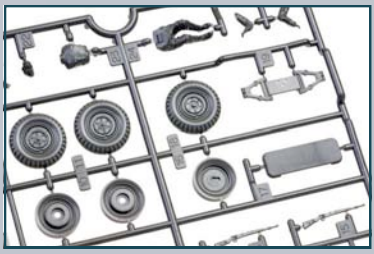
The interior is fairly basic, as is the real vehicle, with the bench seats being made up from three pieces per seat. The support frames are a little thick but within acceptable limits. There is only one foul weather option and that is folded, although I would have liked to have had the option of both the erected and folded options.

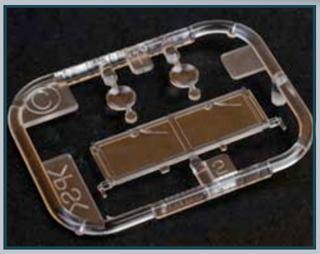
Tamiya's attractive box art.

1/48 MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES NO.86
TAMIYA
WH-644561
1/48
GERMAN TRANSPORT VEHICLE
HORCH TYPE 1a


The plastic chassis.


The back doors are fixed shut, but the front doors may be posed open.

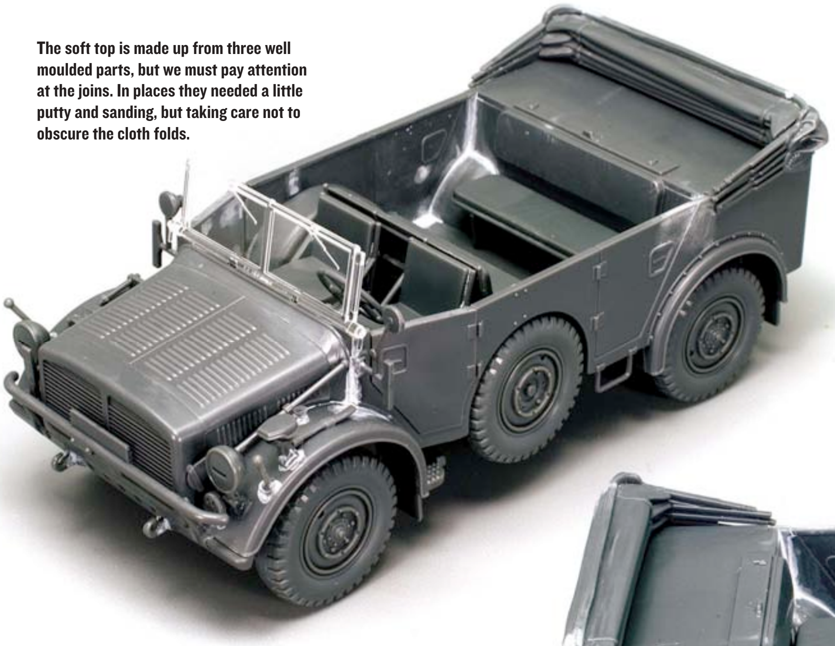

The kit's nicely detailed plastic wheels

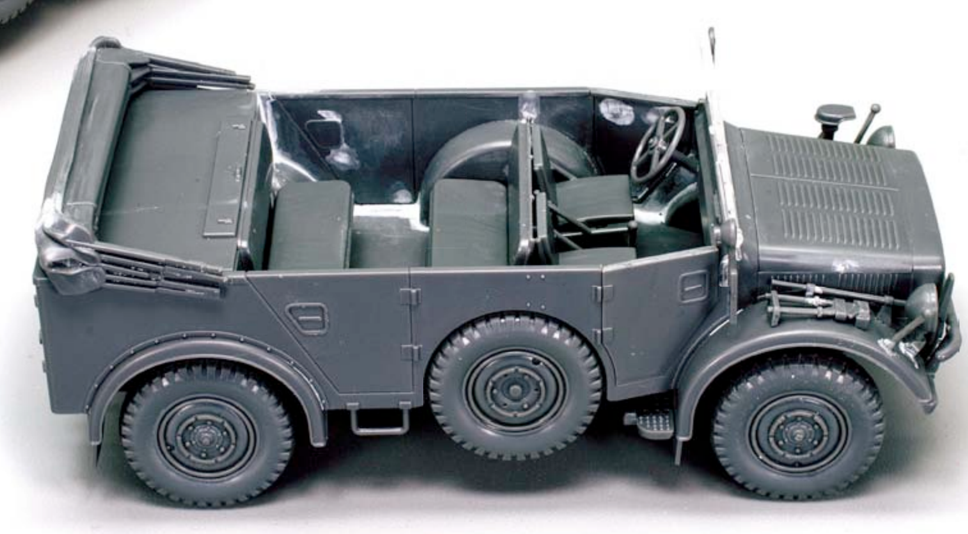

The windscreen and headlight lenses are supplied as clear parts.

ASSEMBLY

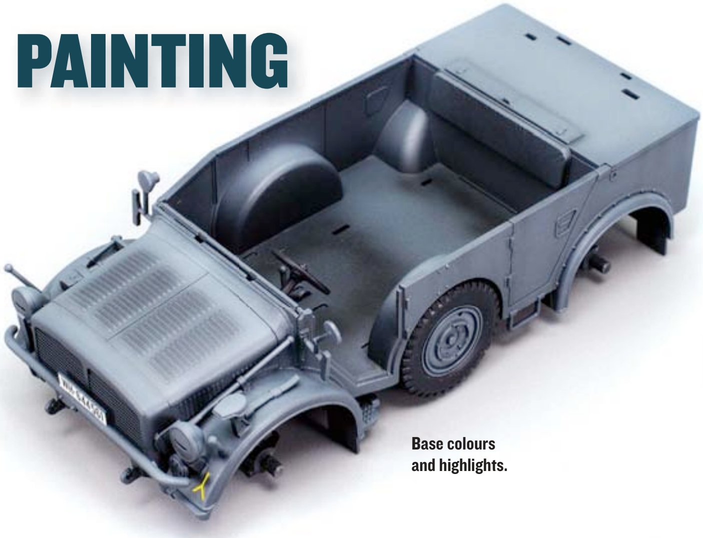
As you might expect for a 1:48 scale Tamiya model, assembly is easy, fast and fun.

Wheels, soft top, and seats were prepared separately to make the painting work easier. We must be careful with the seat supports. We need to take care removing them from the sprues because they can deform and break easily.

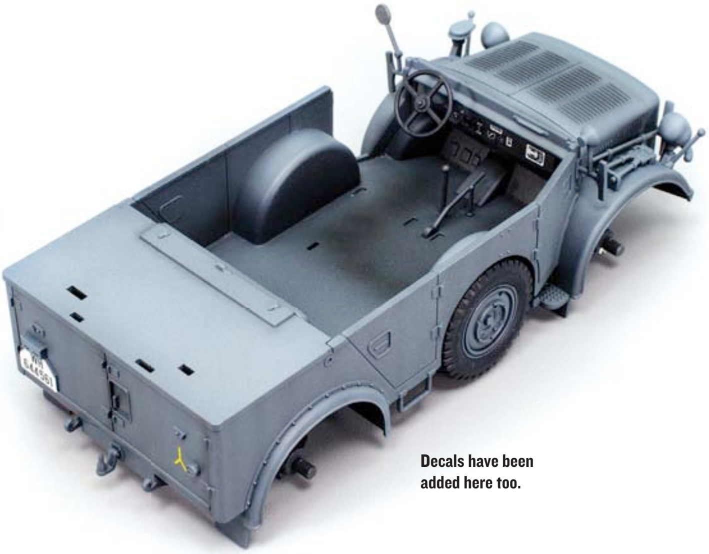

The soft top is made up from three well moulded parts, but we must pay attention at the joins. In places they needed a little putty and sanding, but taking care not to obscure the cloth folds.


The most laborious part is the vehicle interior. Although the parts fit well, there are some moulding imperfections in the door interiors and on the chassis. To solve this we have to apply putty and sand them being careful not to damage the surrounding detail.

PAINTING



Base colours and highlights.



Decals have been added here too.

Before painting a roofless vehicle model, we must plan and think very well how to prepare every part of it.

In this case, seats, wheels and tarps are not glued. They will be prepared and painted separately to ease the process. The transparent parts will be masked with Tamiya tape.

We start with a coat of primer. Vallejo Panzer Grey Primer heavily diluted with its own thinner is used. Be careful of covering all hidden areas and nooks. Two thin coats will be enough to colour the model and easing the adherence of next paint layers.

The base colour Schwarzgrau RAL 7021 is obtained by the mixture of the following Tamiya acrylic colour proportions:

60% XF-63 + 25% XF-50 + 15% XF-18.

The mixture is diluted with Tamiya thinner and airbrushed in thin layers, letting each dry before applying the next one.

The model is illuminated by the zenith technique, focusing on the clearest light tones on high and flat areas. Two highlight effects are applied, adding XF-19 Sky Grey to the base colour, focusing on higher areas, the mudguards and the vehicle interior.

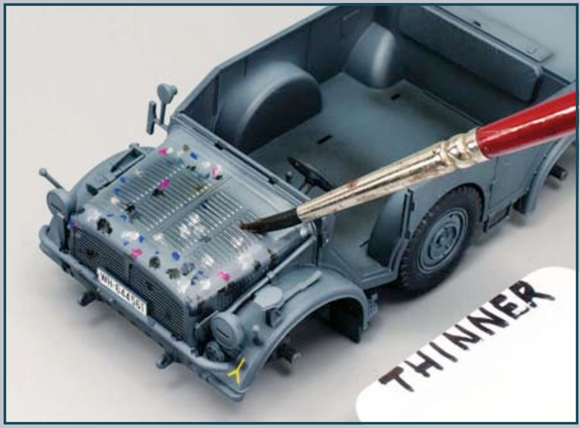
For the second light effect, a drop of Tamiya XF-2 White is added. Because of this is the last light effect, the mixture must be more heavily thinned. With this, we concentrate on higher areas, airbrushing with circular movements and on the top of the vehicle's headlights.

Insomuch as this model is 1:48 scale, we must brighten the base colour because of the scale effect because it will darken later in the weathering process.

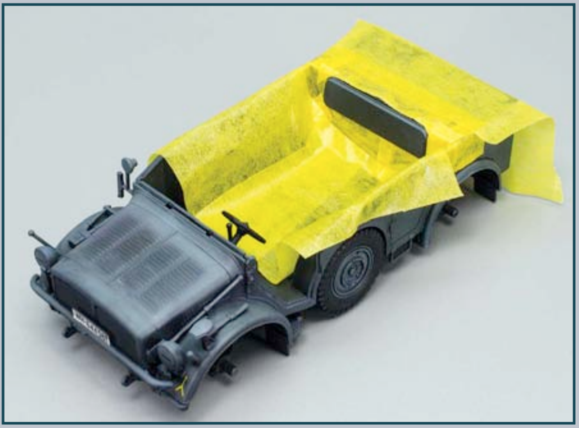
Later, we will shade with Tamiya XF-1 solution (90%), focusing on the areas that are in natural shadow. The engine apertures and the hood can be shaded using the same darker mix.

The final step is setting the decals with Micro liquids. When the decals are completely dry, the last work is to varnish with Vallejo Model Air Matt varnish.

WEATHERING



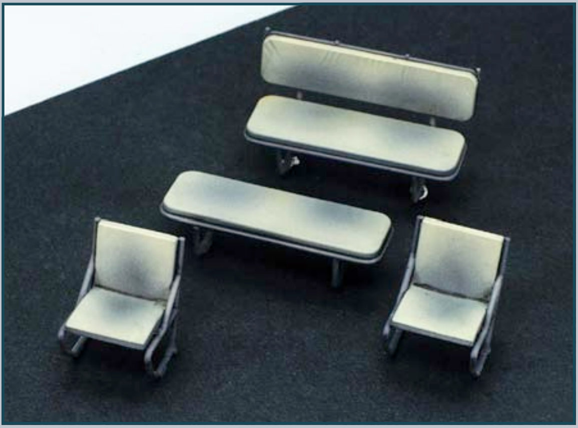
When the base colour is completely dry, the first step of weathering is to apply an oil paint dot wash to provide depth to the base colour and suggest a worn appearance to the vehicle.



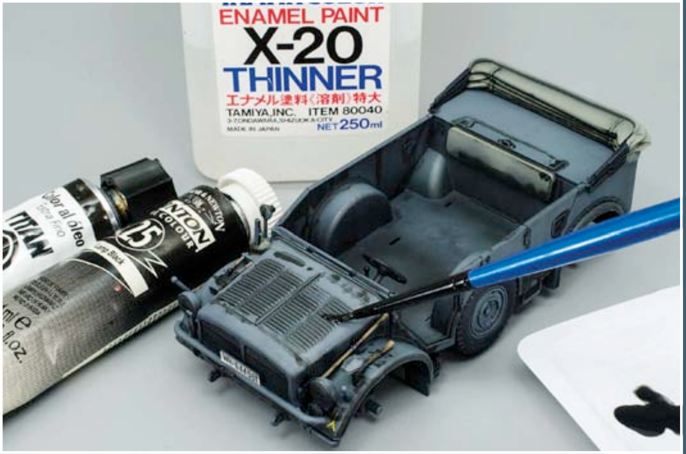
As the rear of the vehicle is modelled next to the back bulkhead, this will be masked with Tamiya tape by way of painting it with our airbrush.

TAMIYA COLOR
PINTURA ACRILICA
TAMIYA COLOR
ACRYL

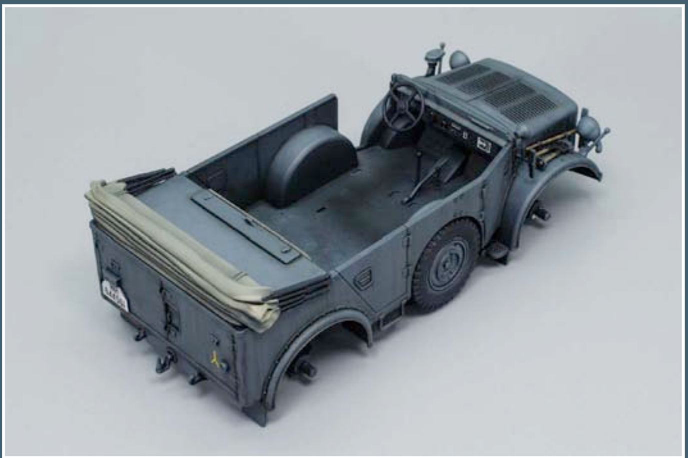
The tarp and seats are airbrushed with a Buff XF-57 and Black XF-1 mixture. The mixture is varied to shade and illuminate.



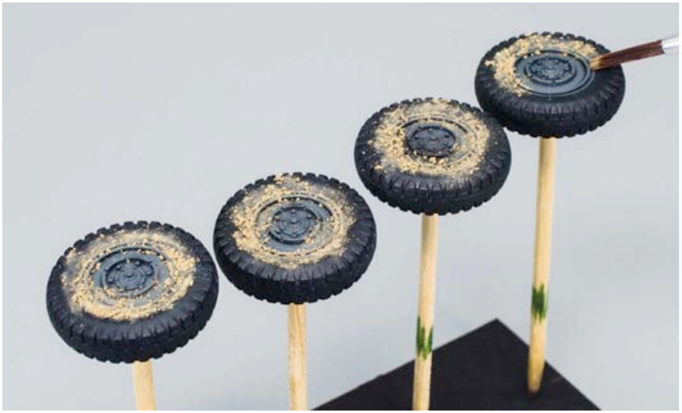
With this, we provide dimension to the respective parts.



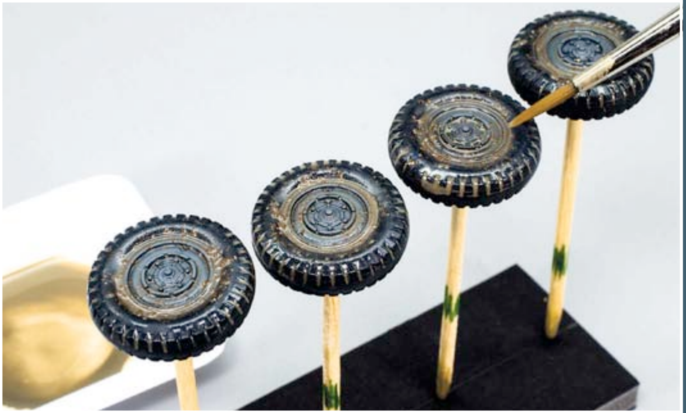
The next work is to profile the many details. To do this, we use a mixture of black and natural shade oil painting. This is applied with a thin brush, letting it dry for a few minutes.



After that, we will remove the excess with Tamiya enamel thinner.

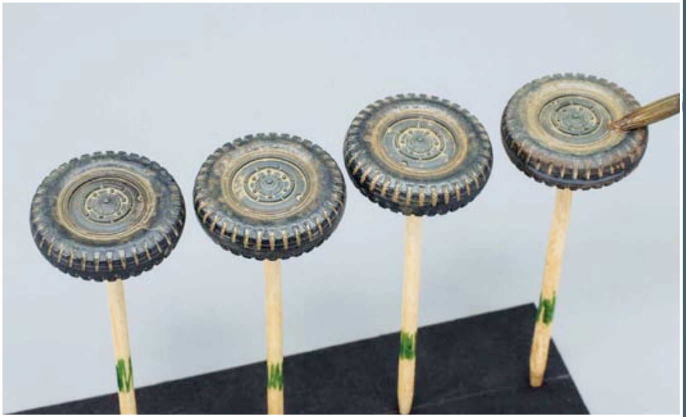


For the wheels, when the tyres are painted in black, pigments are deposited, emphasising the area near the rims.

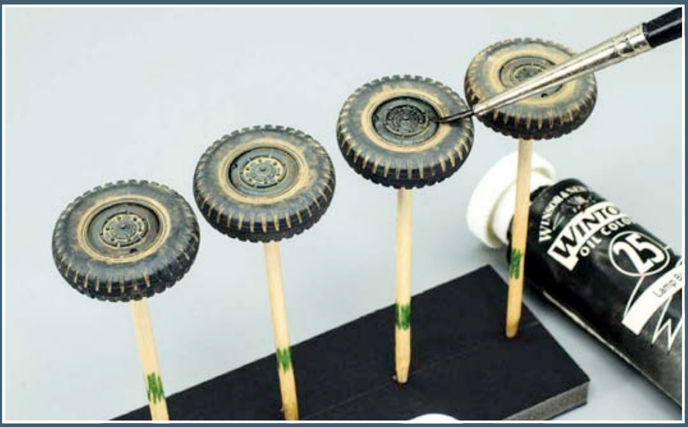


The pigments are fixed with a "Warm Grey" Rembrandt oil painting and thinner mixture.

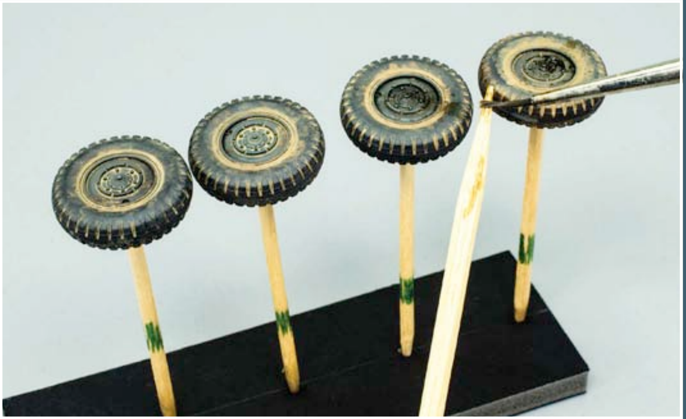
We wait for the thinner to dry before handling the parts.



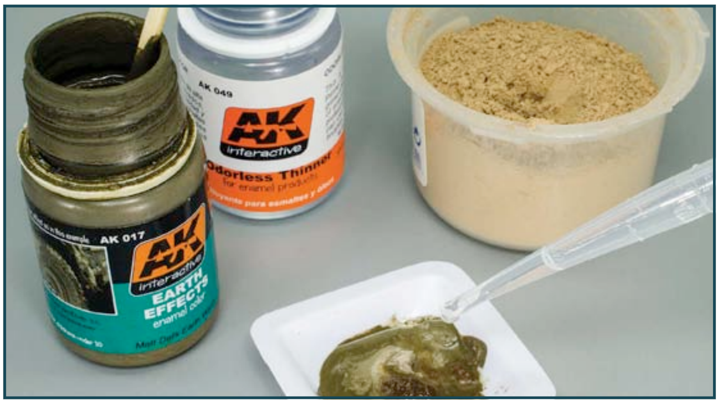
When the previous mixture is well dried, the final result is shaded with other earthy diluted pigments.



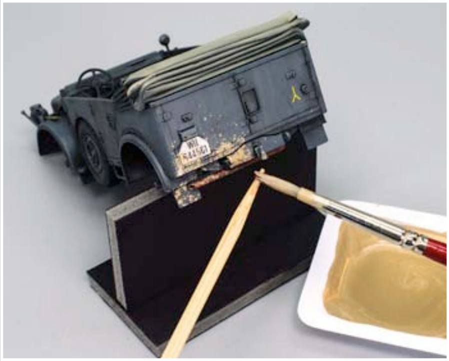
The rim´s details are shaded with black oil painting.



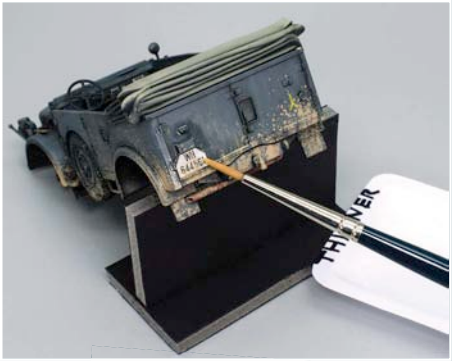
Finally, some dirt effects are applied projecting several diluted tones of oil painting on the wheels.


AK 049
AK interactive
Odorless Thinner
for enamel products
AK 017
AK interactive
EARTH EFFECTS
enamel color

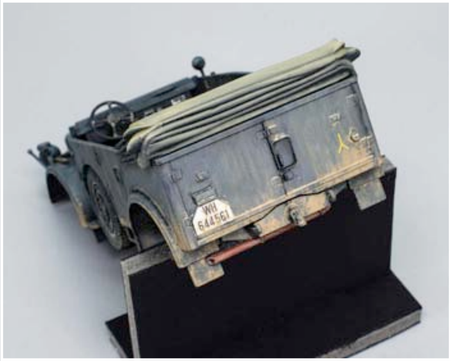
The vehicle dirt is started with a mixture of AK earth effects with an earth pigment and thinner.



The mixture is applied over the lower third of the vehicle.

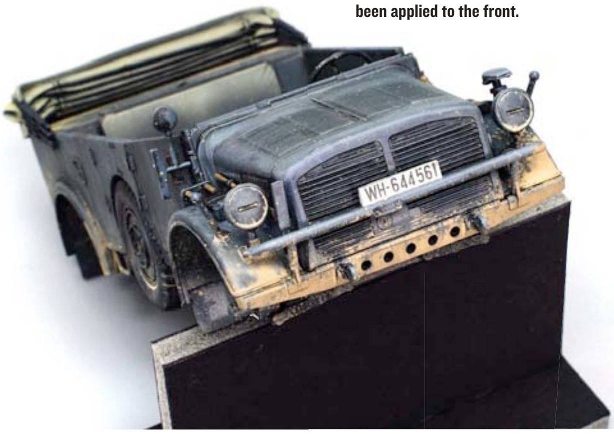


A few minutes later, we melt selectively and remove part of the applied product.

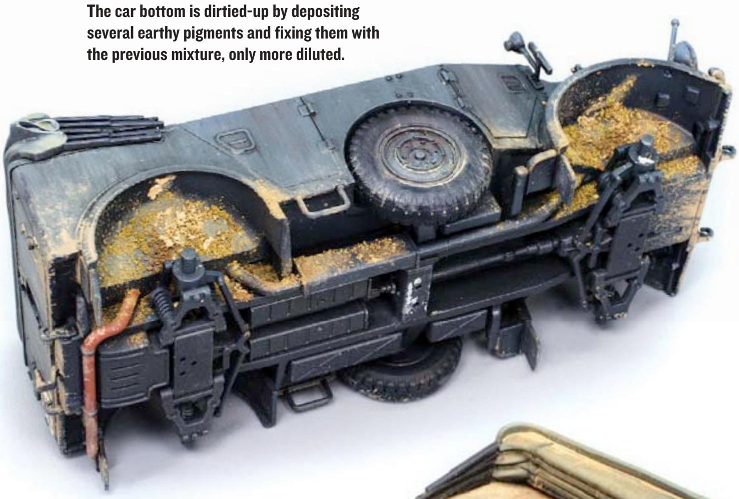


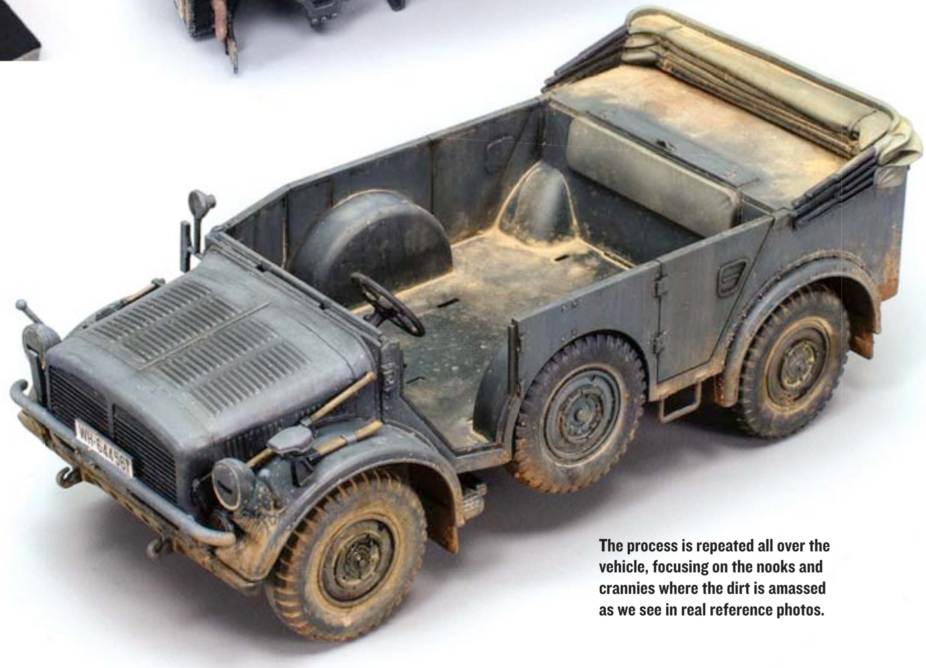
The resulting mess is effective and quite realistic.

The same treatment has been applied to the front.



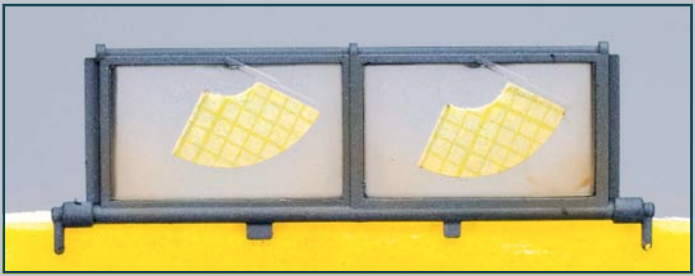
The car bottom is dirtied-up by depositing several earthy pigments and fixing them with the previous mixture, only more diluted.



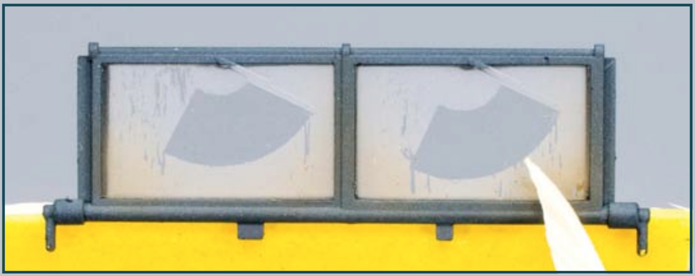


The process is repeated all over the vehicle, focusing on the nooks and crannies where the dirt is amassed as we see in real reference photos.

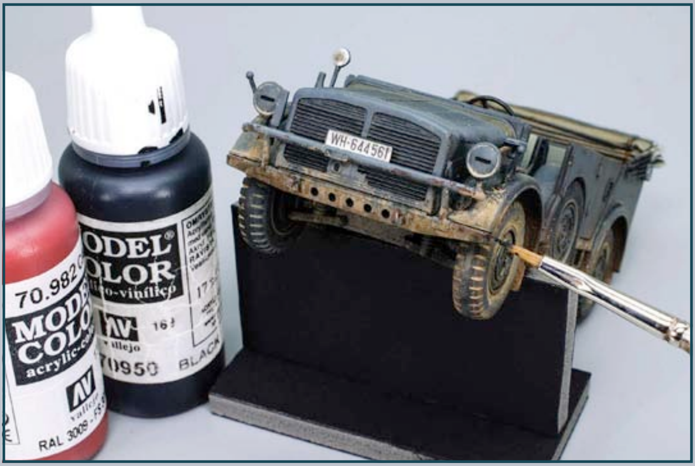
> **"As you might expect for a 1:48 scale Tamiya model, assembly is easy, fast and fun..."**



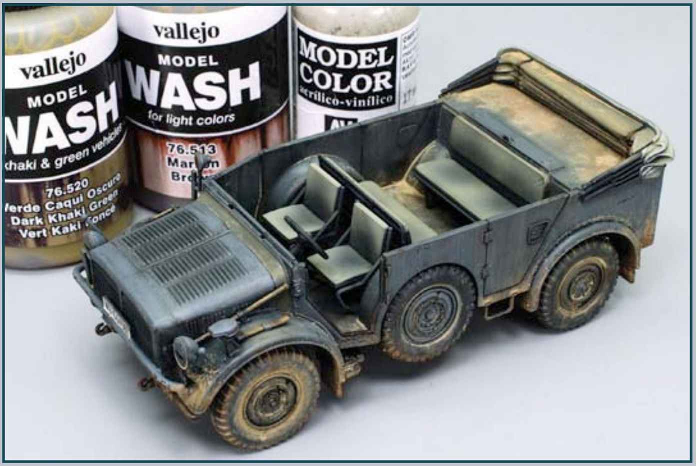
Masks are prepared for the windshield with a cutter. Later we applied diluted XF-57 Buff to imitate dirt.



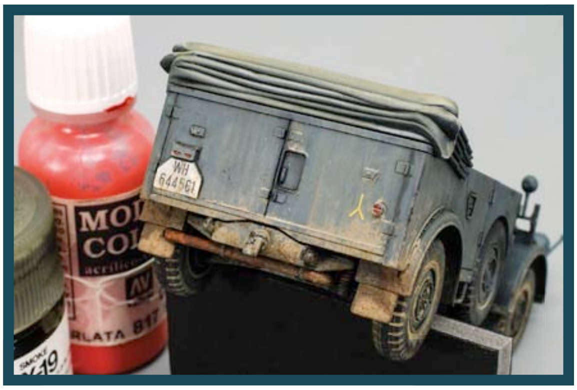
The masks are removed and some marks are made in the dust.



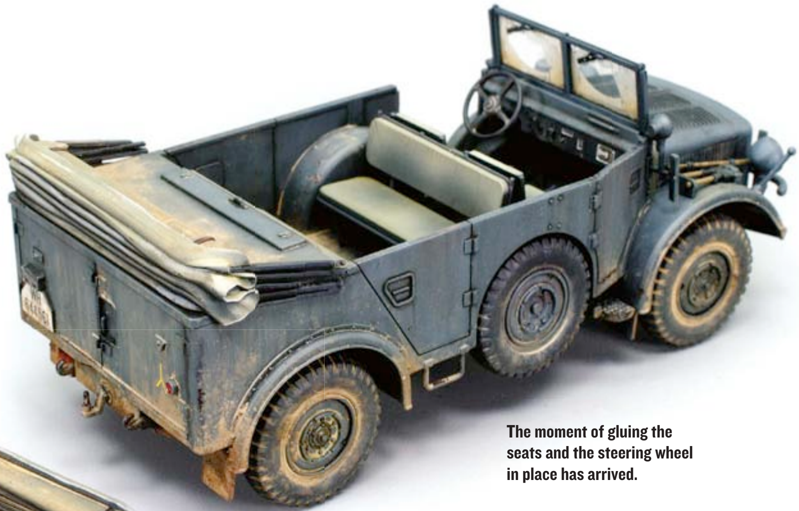
A mixture of Vallejo acrylic Cavalry Brown 70,982 and Black 70,950 is applied with a perfect brush.



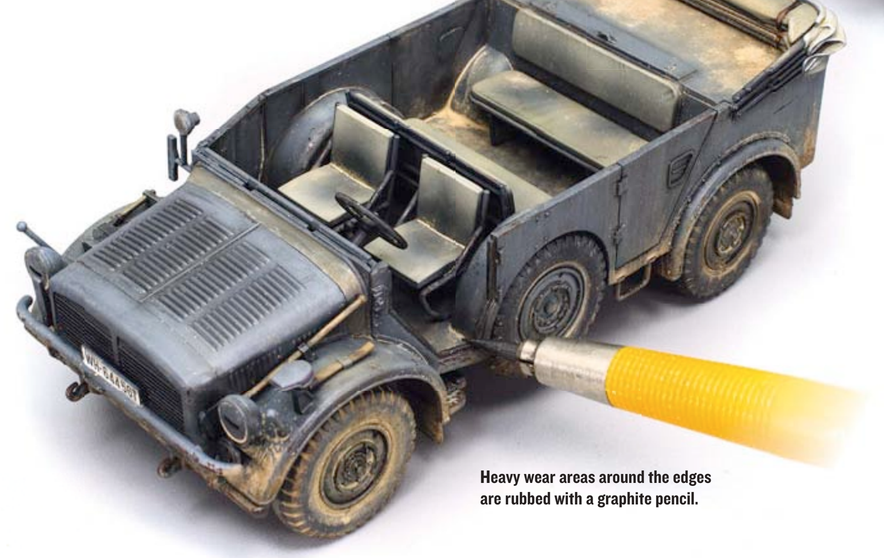
The separation canvas that exists between the bodywork and the hood is painted in Vallejo Canvas 70,314, Khaki Green and Brown inks to provide weathering to the model.



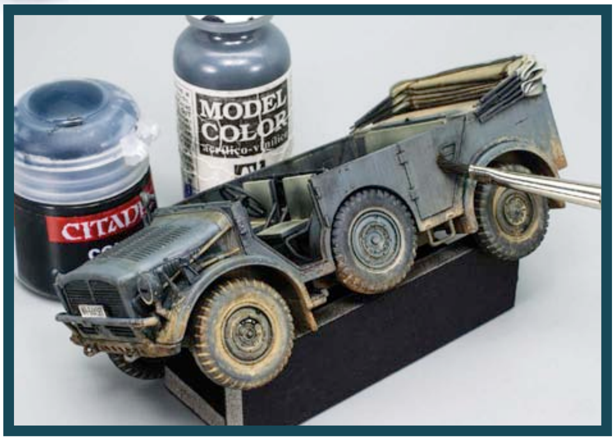
The rear lamps are painted red. By diluting X-19 with water, the lamps are appropriately brightened and shaded.



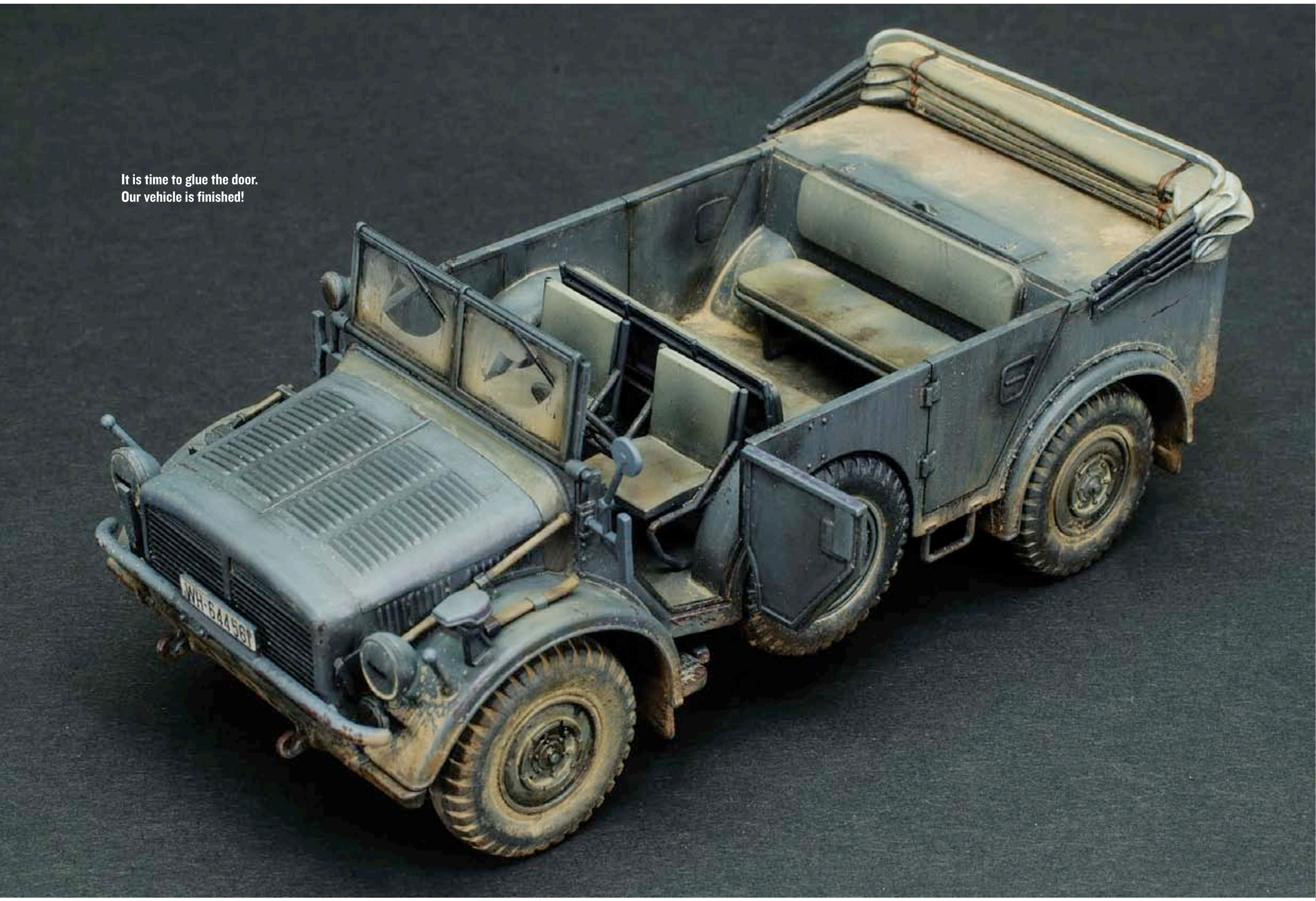
The moment of gluing the seats and the steering wheel in place has arrived.



Heavy wear areas around the edges are rubbed with a graphite pencil.

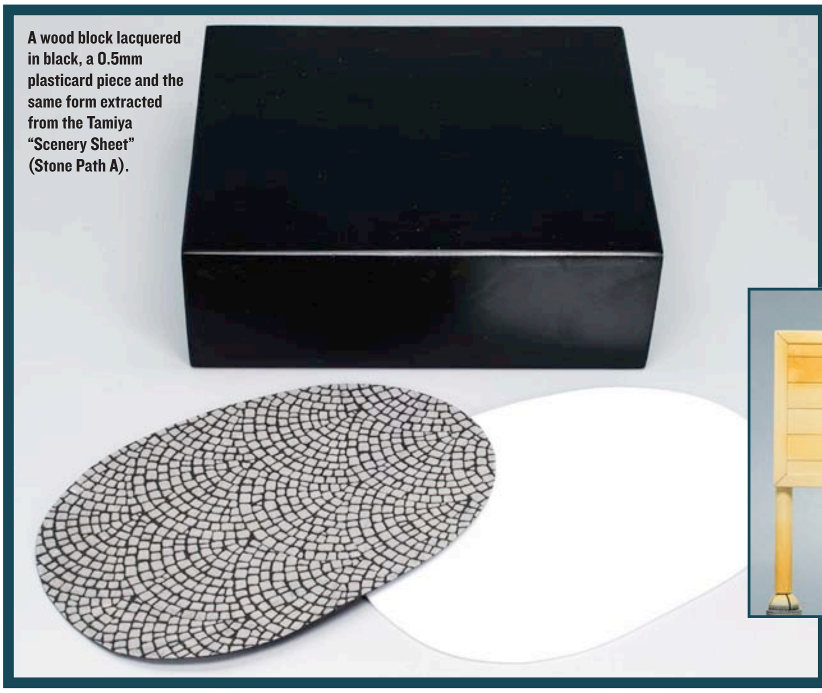


Other areas such as door handles are shaded with a grey and black mixture in little spots.


It is time to glue the door. Our vehicle is finished!

THE BASE

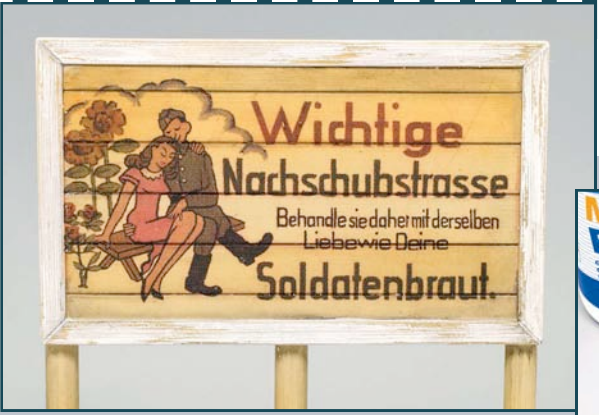
This scene was developed by Almería Modelismo club members. We have made a very simple setting to present the model.


A wood block lacquered in black, a 0.5mm plasticard piece and the same form extracted from the Tamiya "Scenery Sheet" (Stone Path A).

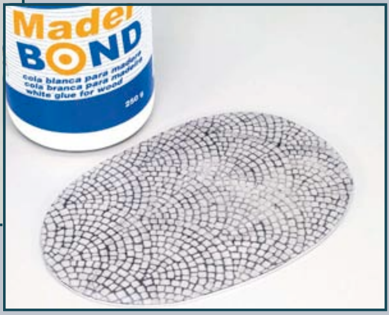
ACRYLIC-POLYURETHANE
GREY PRIMER
73.601
The placard is from the 1:48 Tamiya Road Sign Set. The sign was prepared using Vallejo grey primer.

LIFECOLOR
UA 717
The panels are painted using Lifecolor acrylics, differentiating each other.

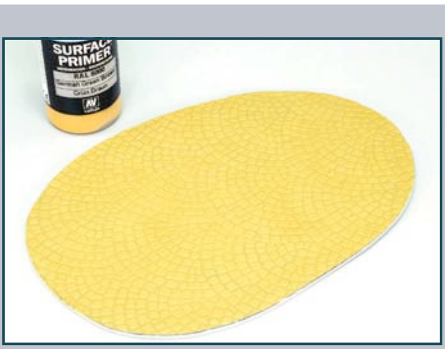
Some filters with Vallejo Washes offer the necessary weathering and add welcome patina.


Wichtige
Nachschubstrasse
Behandle sie daher mit derselben
Liebe wie Deine
Soldatenbraut.

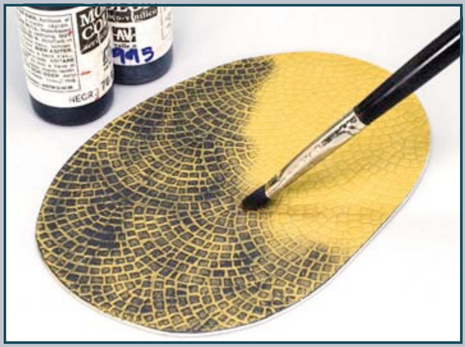
The placard is finished setting the decal which was included in our model kit. Roughly translated, the sign tells soldiers that this is an important supply road, and that they should treat it like their bride! We painted the frame in white, reproducing weathering marks, scratches and dirt.



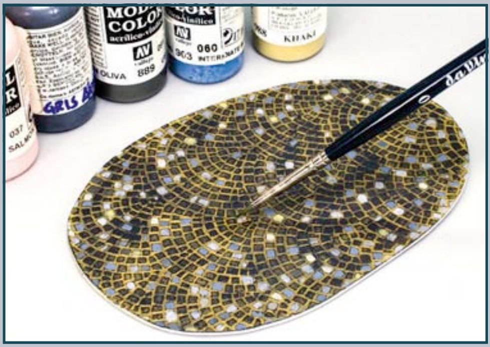
Before painting, two coats of white glue were applied to firm the surface and prepare it for the painting processes.



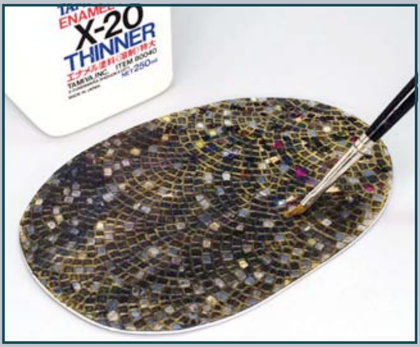
When the white glue was completely dry, an earthy acrylic primer layer was applied.



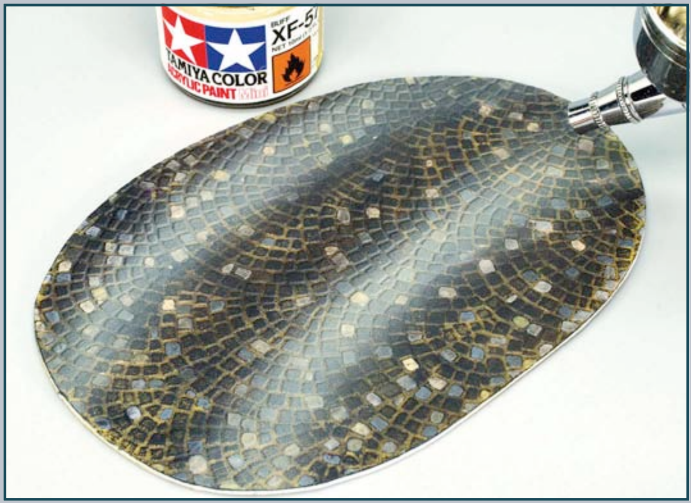
The pavers were enhanced with dark grey by dry-brushing technique.



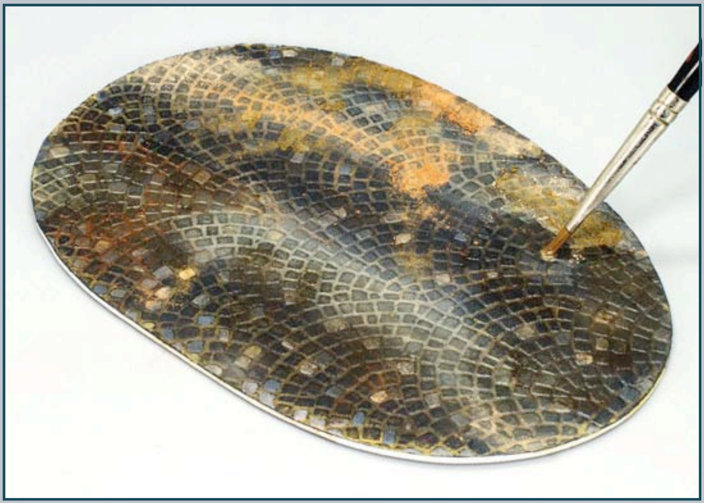
Variety to the surface was provided with a selection of acrylics.



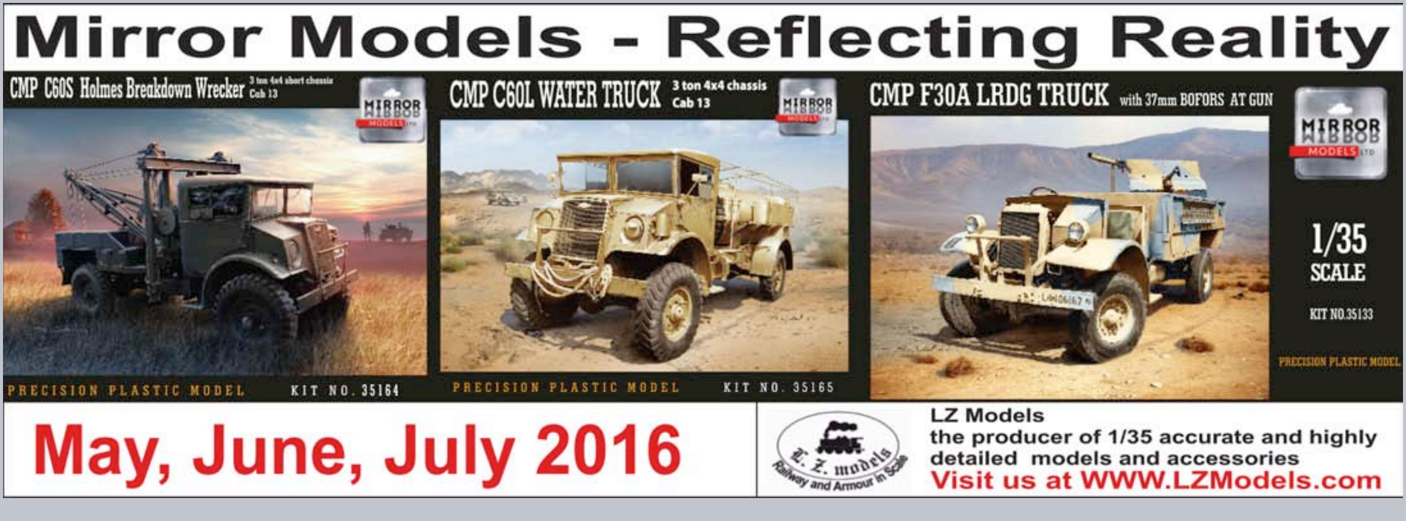
The paved and the surface were weathered and many tonal variations were added using oil washes.



Some tread marks were made by airbrushing Tamiya XF-57 Buff on the pavement.



Finally, some pigments are deposited and fixed with oil paintings previously diluted with enamel thinner.


Mirror Models - Reflecting Reality
CMP C60S Holmes Breakdown Wrecker 3 ton 4x4 short chassis Cab 13
PRECISION PLASTIC MODEL KIT NO. 35164
CMP C60L WATER TRUCK 3 ton 4x4 chassis Cab 13
PRECISION PLASTIC MODEL KIT NO. 35165
CMP F30A LRDG TRUCK with 37mm BOFORS AT GUN
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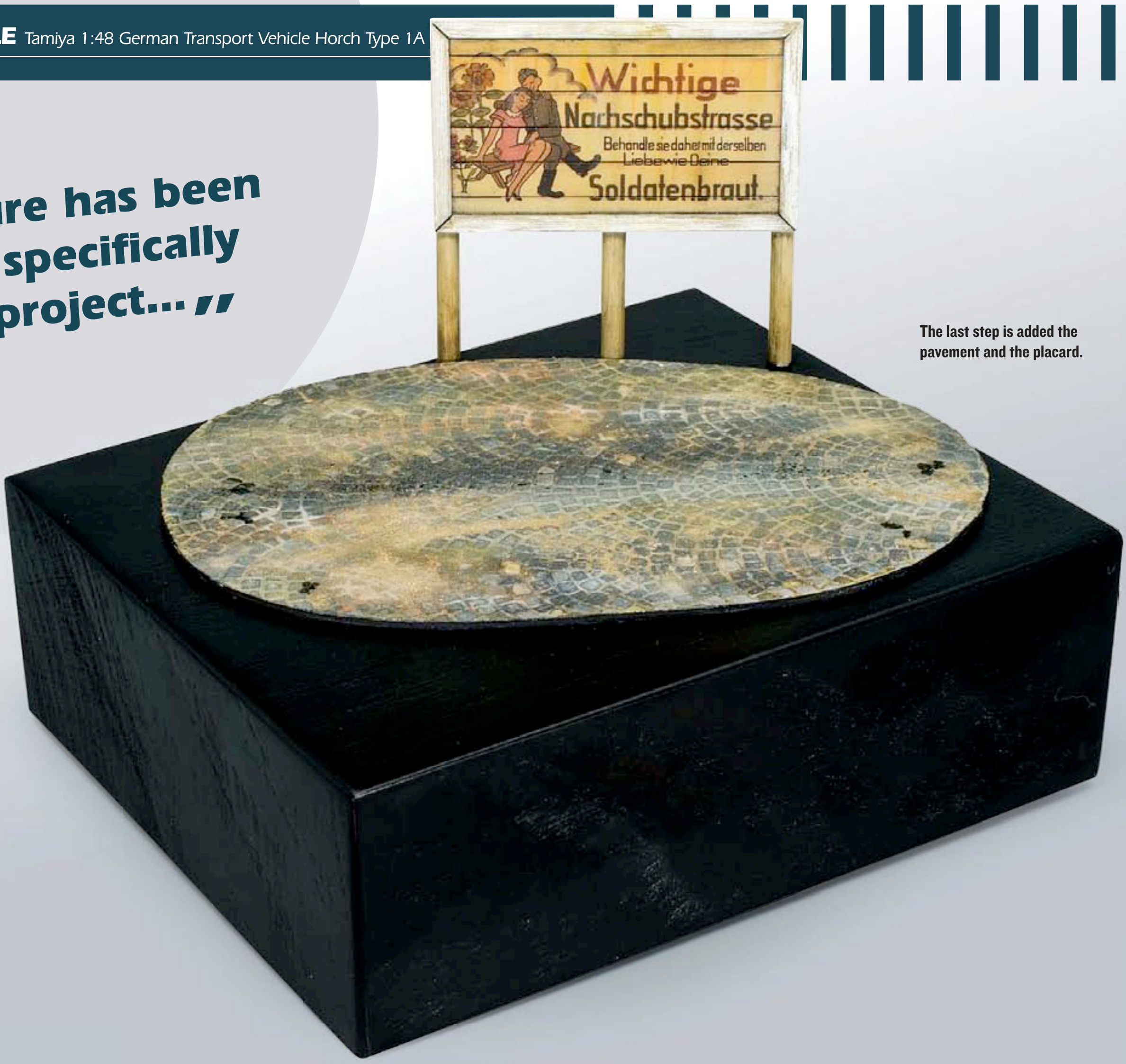
> **"The figure has been sculpted specifically for this project..."**



The last step is added the pavement and the placard.

THE FIGURE

The figure has been sculpted specifically for this project by Manel Arín, who is a Total War Miniatures sculptor.

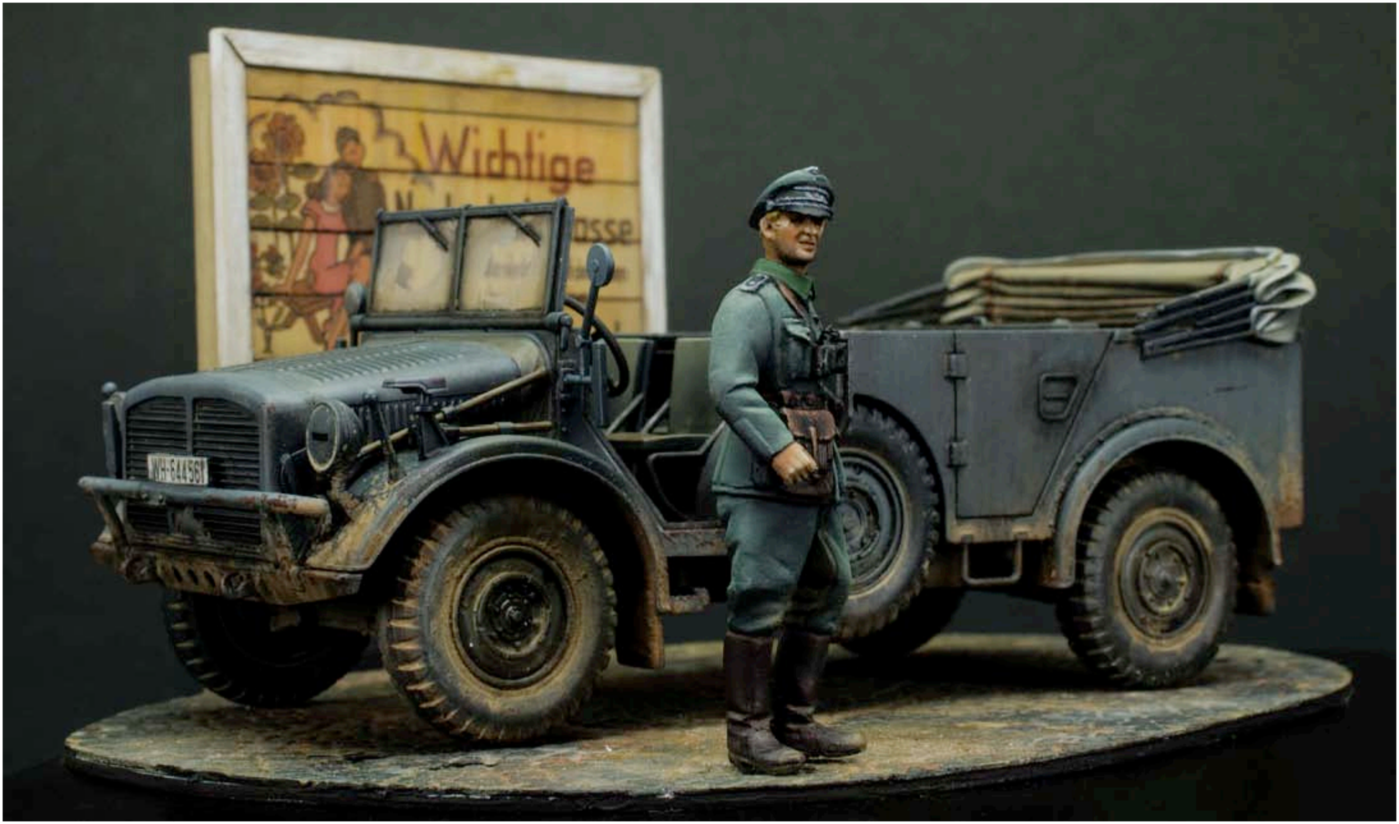
The pose is very natural and perfectly represents a German officer on the Eastern Front.

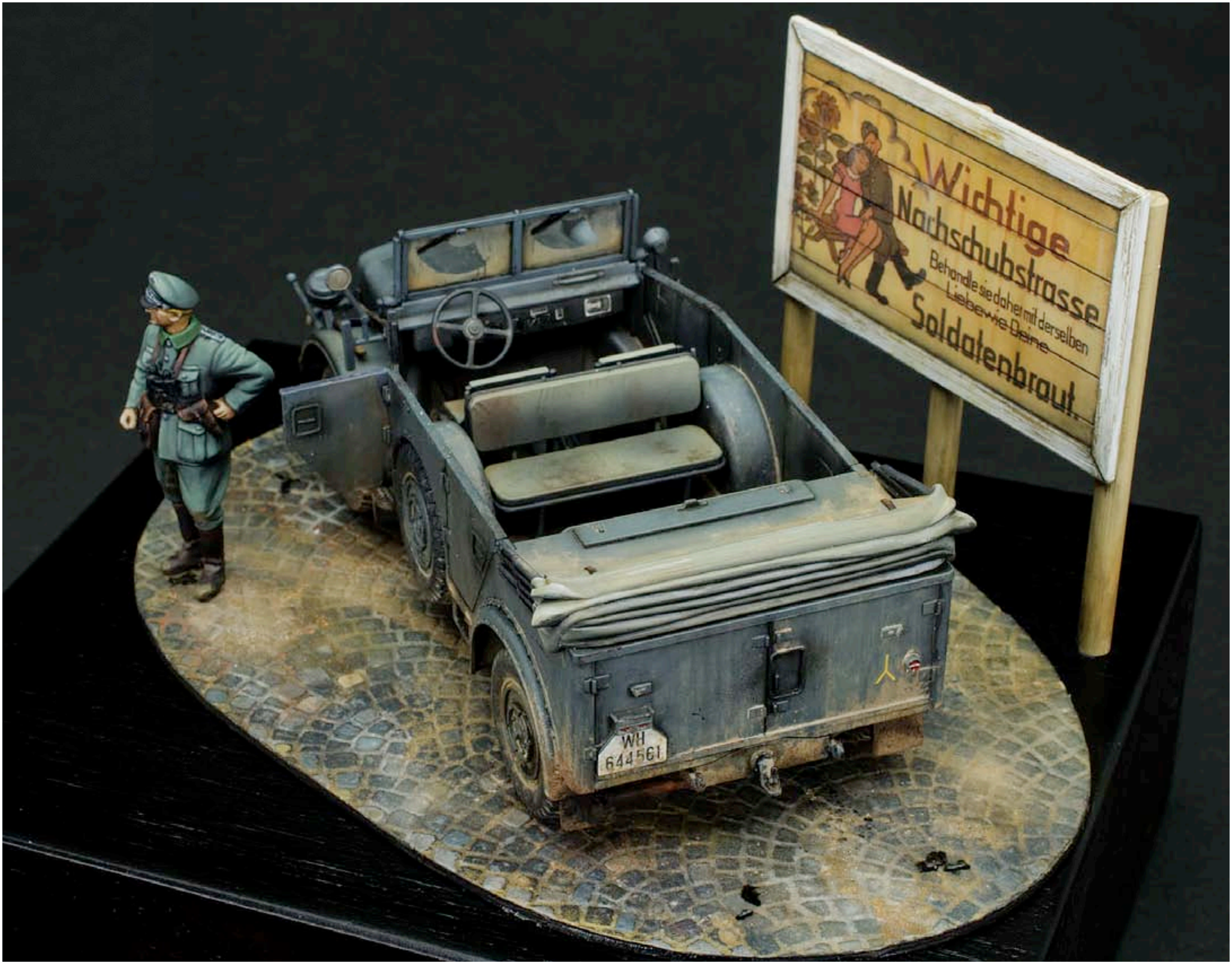
The uniform has been painted with common light modulation techniques, using Andrea Miniatures' "Grey Field Set".

For the flesh, Vallejo Model Color acrylic Brown Sand 70,876 was used as the base colour. The base color was then highlighted with Light Flesh 70,928 and the shades were done by adding Scarlet 70,817 (50%) and English Uniform 70,921 (50%).

For the collar we used Emerald 70,838; shaded with a bit of Black 70,950.

For the leather parts, we used a mixture of Bright Orange 70,851 and Glossy Black 70,861. As we used gloss black, we achieved a nice shiny finish to the leather elements.


Wichtige
WH-644561


Wichtige
Nachschubstrasse
Behandle sie daher mit derselben
Liebe wie Deine
Soldatenbraut.
WH
644561

EARLY LEOPARD BUILD

After his recent in-box review, **Andy King** liked the new Revell 1:35 scale Leopard 1 so much that he built it! He shares his construction tips in this Build Preview.

Following on from my review of this kit in an earlier issue of MMI, I quite fancied putting it together as it is an important type in the Leopards' history. I ordered a couple of Tankograd books about the early Leopard and it was with the help of the first volume that I was able to find out which of the production batches the kit represented.

Although the kit has parts for the first batch such as the rectangular telephone box on the rear plate, the turret has a rain guard around the rear edge that was introduced on Batch 2 Leopards, so for modelling a vehicle from Batch 1 this would need to be removed.

Other differences for Batch 2 Leopards include the rails on the turret sides that feature a triangular support in the middle, the fittings on the sides of the hull for side skirts and most importantly the rear exhaust grills as two different types are included. Parts B59 and B60 actually appeared on Batch 3 vehicles along with the lifting lugs on the rear plate (parts E55 and E56) so when modelling an early Leopard you will need to do some research, especially as some parts such as the Infra-Red searchlight stowage box on the rear turret basket (Step 42 option B) introduced on Batch 4 were actually retro-fitted to Batch 1 Leopards. Confusing stuff indeed!

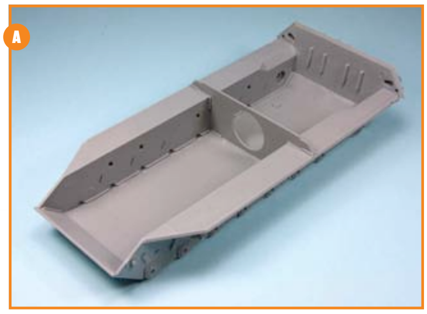
BUILDING THE LEOPARD

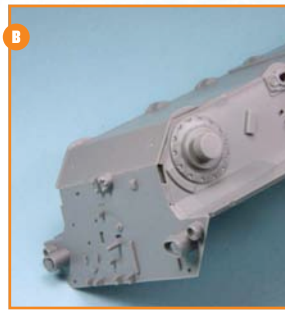
Onto the build then. We start with the lower hull and immediately you need to make a choice of which rear hull plate is fitted. I opted for part B5 as I was building a Batch 2 Leopard and didn't require the lifting hooks (parts E55 and 56). The actual fit is rather good and the internal bulkhead helps a lot.

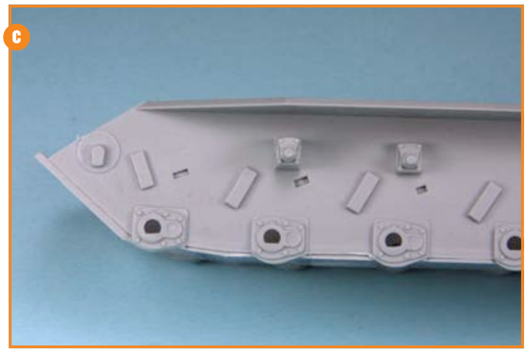
The suspension is fixed so if you want to pose the model in a diorama with uneven ground, some extensive surgery will be required. Again the fit of parts is good although there are some slight sink marks on the suspension arms and a couple of the holes in the hull are tight and need reaming to get the parts to fit.

Also be careful when fixing the middle swing arms (parts E16 and E22) as it is very easy to get these out of alignment (trust me on this). ▶

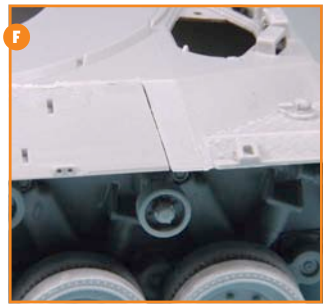
A. The lower hull assembly
B. The fit of parts was pretty good at the rear...
C. ...and the hull sides too.
D. The locating holes for the front suspension need reaming otherwise the parts don't fit properly.
E. The basic hull assembly
F. The side panel on the right didn't fit as well as the left.
G. However you can add weld seams to the joints as they are quite prominent on the real vehicle.
H. The odd gap under the hull top.
I. You can't really see it with the track fitted but I filled it anyway.
J. The moulded mantlet plugs and attachment chain. These will be replaced at a later date prior to painting.
K. The rear hull.


A


B


C

D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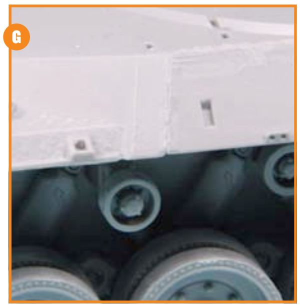
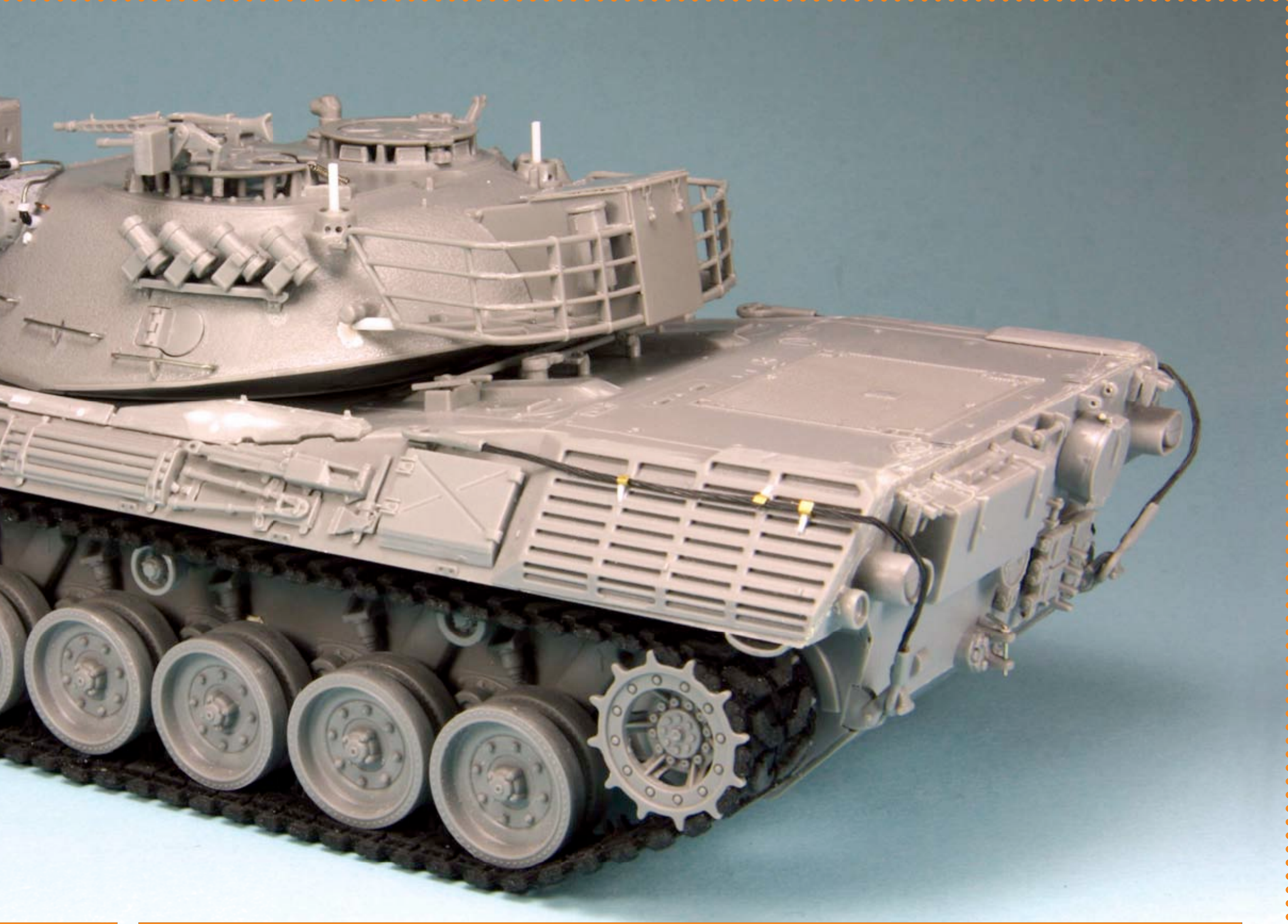
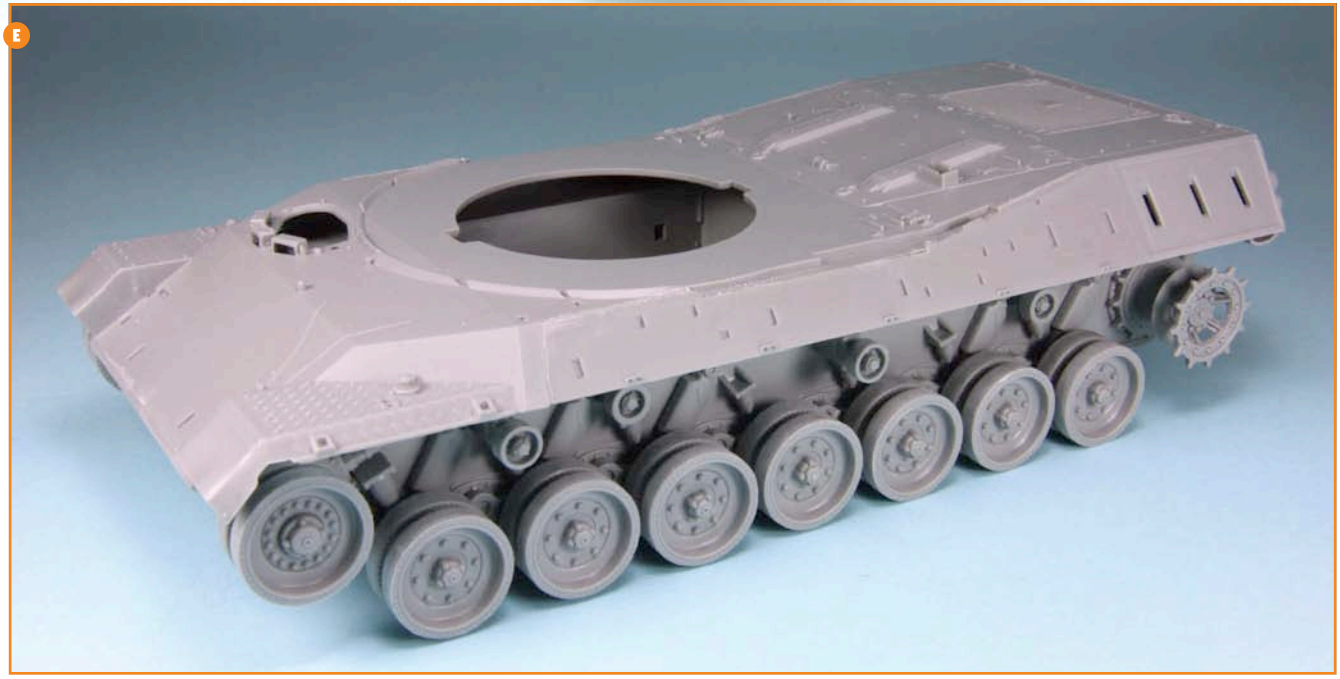

G

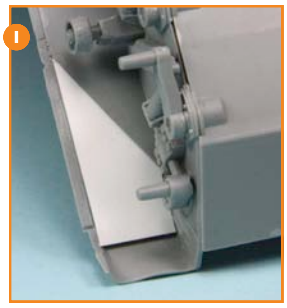
H



E

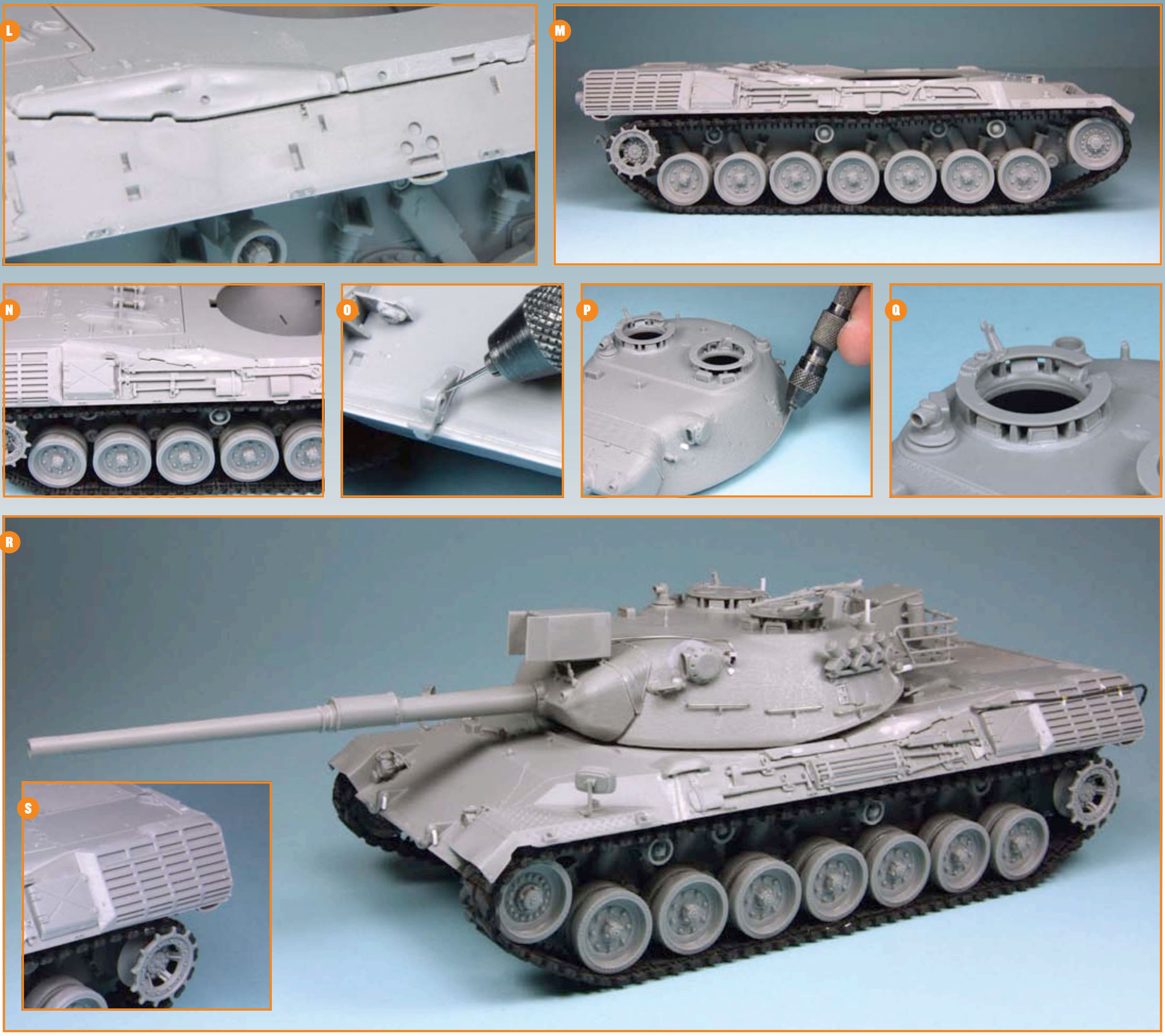


I



J

K



L. The worst sink marks were found on these parts. Note that the holes in them are for the longer tow cables only. **M.** The tracks before removal of two links either side to improve the tension. **N.** Tool clamps were improved by simply drilling them out and thinning with a scalpel. **O.** The tow hooks looked much better after being scribed and will hold a wash much better during the weathering phase. **P.** The rain channel on the turret rear received the same treatment. **Q.** The periscopes after finely stretched sprue was added around the edges, so much better than the flat featureless appearance of the kit items. **R.** Construction finished. **S.** The strange groove in the exhaust grills that requires filling.

◀ Step 16, and before gluing the upper hull (Part A38), the instructions tell you to drill out two sets of holes either side, however nowhere in the instructions does it mention what these holes are for. The answer to that question is lifting lugs (parts E88) so only open the holes if you are doing the later versions.

Once the hull top was glued into place, the side pieces (parts E41 and E42) were also attached. The fit on the left was very good but the right side had a gap either end which was annoying as they would need to be filled. Underneath the front fenders there is a large triangular gap either side that will require blanking off with styrene sheet as you can see right inside the hull.

TRACKS

I dry-fitted the road wheels to see what the rubber tracks were like as my first impression of them was not very favourable. There are pin marks on the inner faces and the track pads had a few slight moulding defects. I joined the tracks using an old screwdriver heated over an open flame (we have a gas cooker) and fitting the track revealed it was too slack. I cut out two links at the join and reattached the tracks with two staples (ahhhhh just like the old days and if you're lucky the road wheels may hide the staples). With the removal of two links the track tension looked much better.

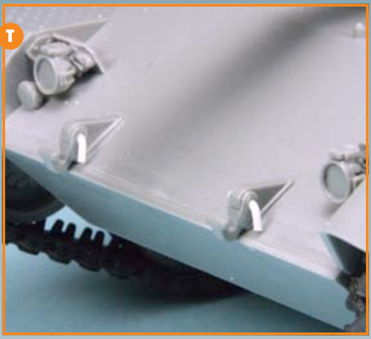
Parts B 68,69,70 and 71 have some very bad sink marks that require filling before you glue them in place. These parts are optional depending on which length of tow cables are to be fitted. It should be noted that parts E72 are for the shorter cables so these should not be fitted if the longer cables are used. Speaking of cables, I threw away the kit supplied ones as they are awful and replaced them with picture hanging wire. Cable brackets on the exhausts were made from some brass off-cuts. It is worth noting that on both sets of exhausts there is a strange groove moulded in them that needs filling.

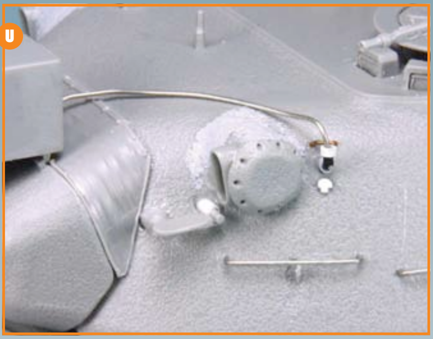
Part E87 is the intake for the NBC filter and the triangular hole in it looks like a moulding defect that needs to be filled but if anything it should be opened up a bit and squared off.

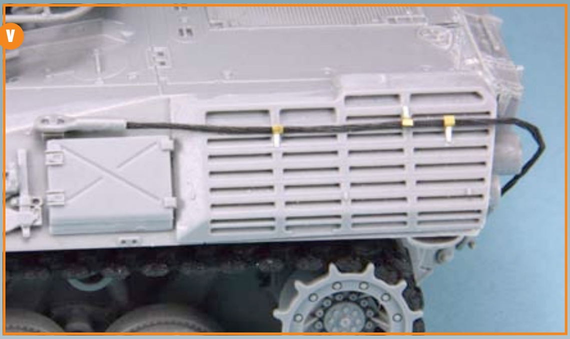
A couple of areas that can be improved on straight away without waiting for aftermarket are the tow hooks front and back and periscopes. I scribed around the hooks with a dressmakers pin to add depth to them and drilled out the holes for new locking pins. For the periscopes I glued thin heat-stretched sprue onto the blank faces to at least add some relief.

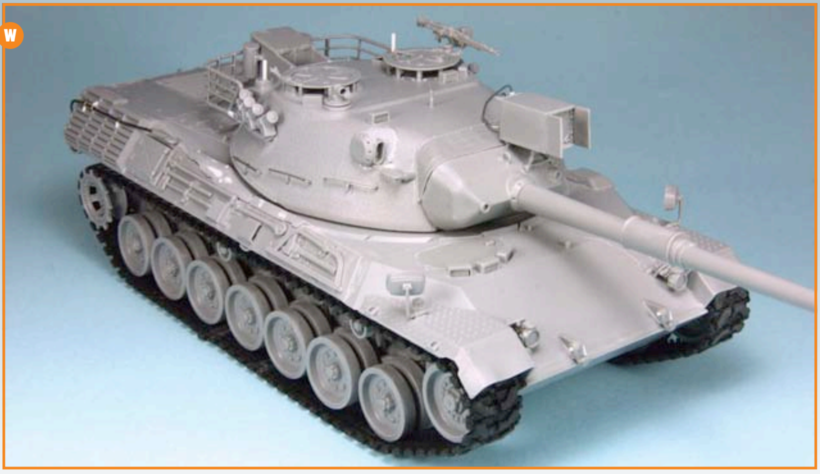
TURRET

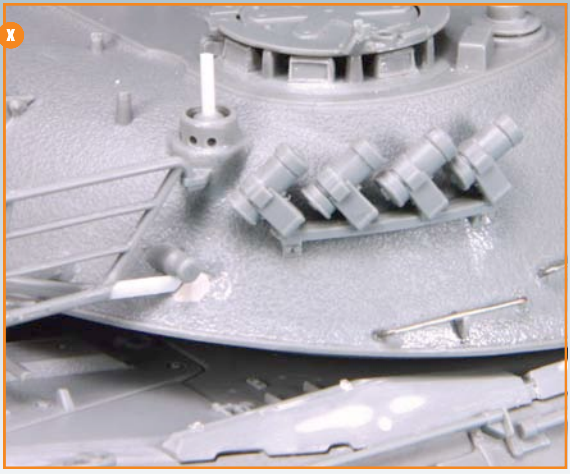
Onto the turret next, and again for a quick fix to improve the look I scribed the rain guard that runs around the bottom rear of the turret as on the kit it is moulded solid. The springs for the loaders hatch were removed and new ones made from fine fuse wire. The covers for the range finders either side can only be fitted in

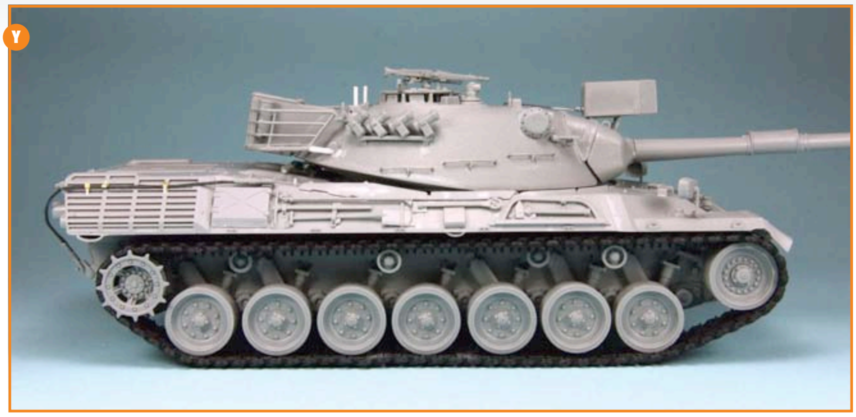


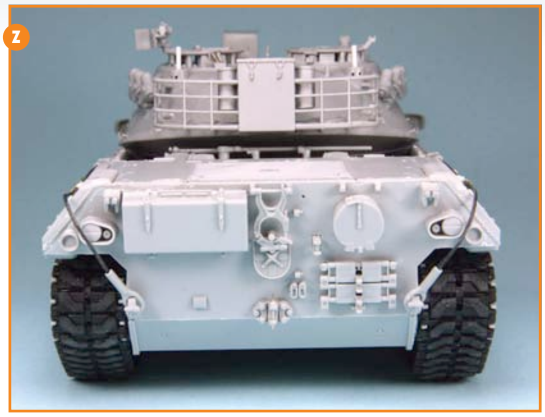












T. The tow hooks had the moulded locking pins removed and new ones made from styrene rod. **U.** This picture shows the new details for the searchlight cable and mounts for the rangefinder covers plus the new rails made from fuse wire. **V.** The new tow cables made from picture hanging wire and brackets made from off-cuts of etch brass sheet. **W.** Another view of the completed build. **X.** This view shows the better track tension after two links were removed either side. Hopefully the weathering and mud effects will hide those shiny staples. **Y.** The turrets basket didn't fit that well so the indents in the turret were filled, also drain holes were drilled into the antenna bases. **Z.** The rear! Yes I know that one track is the wrong way around...oops. Sorry about that!

the closed position due to their shape so I drilled the turret sides and glued in some styrene rod as I wanted the covers open. The fit of the range finders left quite a gap at the top so I filled these with Mr Surfacer 500 and stippled it with an old paint brush to try and match the turret texture. The mountings for the machine gun rings around the hatches are pretty basic but I decided to leave these as is.

The rear turret basket has an option for two types of storage boxes for the laser rangefinder and although part B42 was fitted to later batches somehow it ended up being fitted to earlier models as well. The basket itself is the trickiest part of the kit to assemble and I glued mine together before I mounted it on the turret. The basket sides don't match the corresponding holes in the basket bottom so I found it easier to remove the locating pins altogether. Doing this also helped to align the side bars with the rear and once it was together I ran some cyano around all the joints and left the whole assembly to set. Fitting it to the turret was problematic as the basket fits where it touches and the indents in the turret don't really match up either. In fact I filled the outer two indents as the basket goes nowhere near them.

The main gun mount inside the turret is moveable and helps with getting the canvas cover (part C168) into place. However, if you want to alter the gun position you will have to scratch build a new canvas cover.

I ended up replacing the grab handles on the turret sides as the kit ones are too straight and don't conform to the turret profile, the cable for the searchlight was made from fuse wire with new 'U' shape mountings made from styrene as the vinyl one in the kit is pretty awful.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, Revell's Leopard 1 is pretty good straight out of the box and obviously with all the aftermarket goodies that are available now they will put the icing on the cake. There are a few things that have been simplified but with even basic modelling skills you can do a lot yourself to improve the look of the model as I have mentioned in the text.

The biggest let down is the tracks but if you are not that fussy you can try and fill the pin marks with cyano or hide the defects with mud.

There is a bit of confusion as to what parts fit which particular batch of Leopard and I would advise you to model a particular vehicle; but on the whole it's a good one and high time we had a decent early Leopard.

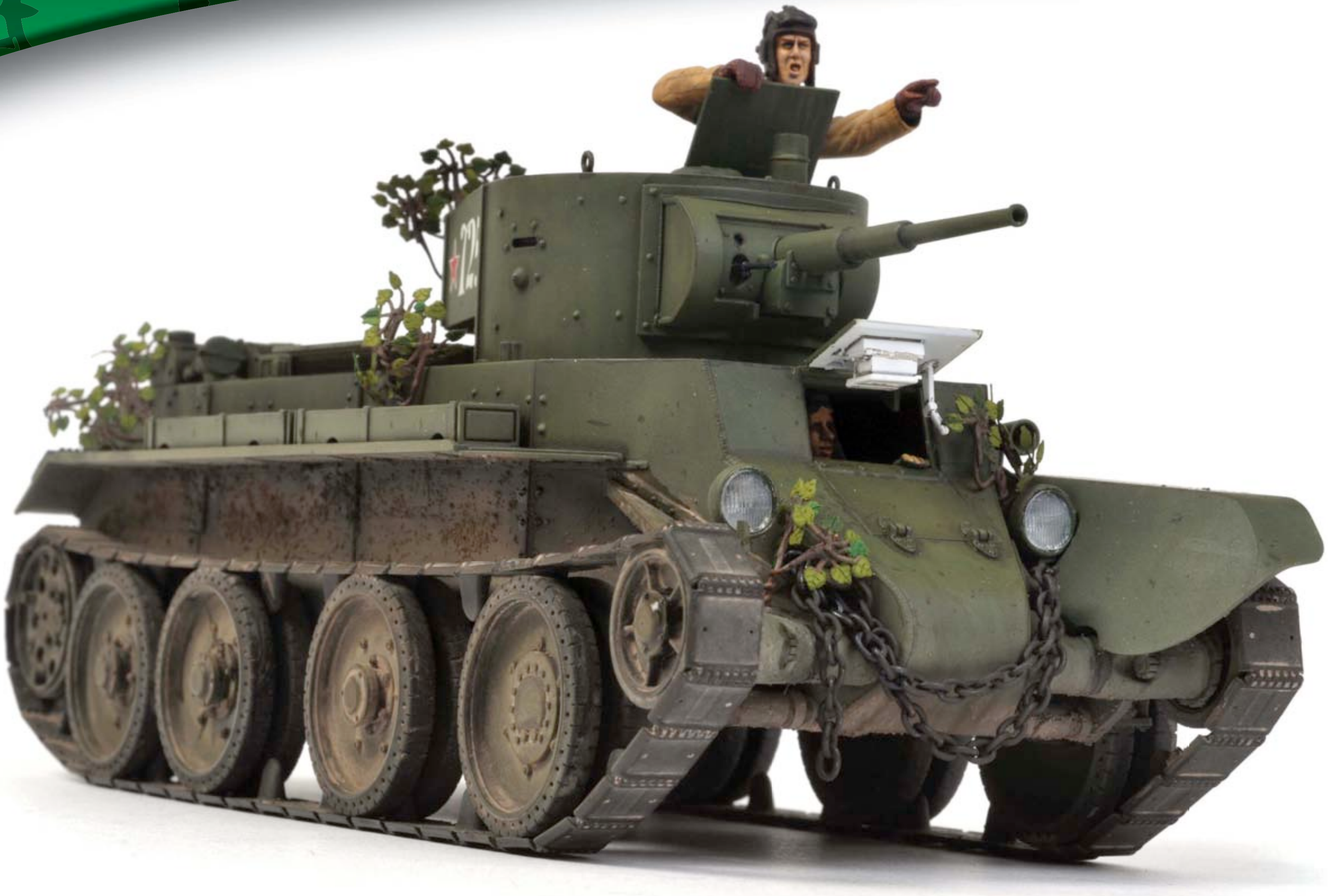
I have to thank Michael Shackleton from Leopard Workshop for his guidance and also Mark Mick over the pond in Michigan as we were building the kit at the same time and comparing notes.

Cheers guys! ■

Revell model kits are available from all good toy and model retailers. For details visit ***www.revell.de/en***

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

Tamiya 1:35 BT-7 Model 1935 • Kit No. 35309



NORTHERN EXPOSURE

Back in 2010, **Brett Green** built Tamiya's then new 1:35 scale BT-7 Model 1935 (early version).

Tamiya surprised us with their announcement of a 1:35 scale BT-7 Fast Tank just before the 2010 Shizuoka Hobby Show.

The kit represents the early version, which may be identified by the two rectangular hatches on its cylindrical turret roof.

Tamiya's 1:35 BT-7 comprises more than 190 parts in dark green coloured plastic, 16 parts in grey plastic, eight parts in clear, a nickel plated photo-etched fret, a length of chain, a bag of polythene caps and markings for four vehicles.

Detail is all that we have come to expect from Tamiya. Suspension and running gear is very well represented, while the hull features appropriately raised rivets.

A photo-etched fret includes the large mesh for the radiator grille and narrow vents for the engine deck. The mesh parts are beautifully presented with an impressive three-dimensional weave effect.

Tracks are supplied as link and length, representing the early long-pitch style. This is the same style of track that was fitted to the BT-5 and, after examining many historical photographs (including those in Bruce Culver's informative "Think Tank" reference article on the previous pages of this issue), it would appear to be the most common track fitted to the BT-7 Model 1935 too.

Moulding quality is excellent as usual, but the inside surfaces of the tracks and the hatches are marred with visible ejector pin circles. It is worth considering that these circles are one of the reasons that Tamiya kits fit together so flawlessly, but they do demand extra time for filling and sanding.

Two high quality crew figures are included. These two tankers - an Officer and a crewman - are crouching outside the vehicle examining a map.

The decal sheet offers markings for four different BT-7 Model 1935 tanks, all finished in overall Russian Green.

Clear parts are supplied for the headlights and vision blocks.

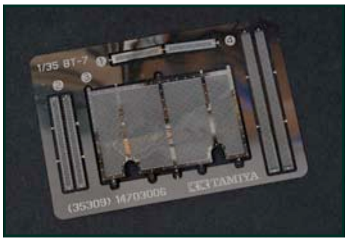


Photo-etched mesh for the engine grille.

FAST TANK = FAST BUILD

Construction gets underway with the hull, which is a double-skinned affair with the suspension mounted between the inner and outer layers. This arrangement means that it would be difficult for Tamiya to mould a simple one-piece hub. Instead, the hull is provided as a multi-part assembly that is reinforced with a central bulkhead and a couple of axles. The fit is very good, but you do need to take care to get everything aligned properly, especially when attaching the sides of the nose to the inner hull halves.

MAKING TRACKS

I really do Tamiya's link and length tracks. In my opinion they offer the best of both worlds, with realistic sag but nowhere near the work demanded by individual links and workable tracks. The thin and lightweight BT-7 tracks seem to be ideal candidates for the link and length treatment.

I started by gluing three individual links around each idler wheel. The top run can then be joined to the top link on the idler wheel. Four links should be glued to each drive sprocket, permitting the front link on the sprocket to join the back of the top run. The first of the three-link runs may now be added to the bottom of the links on the idler wheel, bridging the gap to the front road wheel with the addition of another single link. Now comes the flat bottom run, followed by a bit of fiddling to close the gap between the rearmost road wheel and the drive sprocket with the second length of three links and another individual track link.

The entire preparation and assembly of both track lengths took only around two hours.

The turret was assembled per instructions, but at this stage I paused for a day or two as I awaited arrival of the photo-etched parts.

ANY COLOUR YOU WANT...

If you want to build a BT-7 Model 1935, you'd better like green.

The paint job started with a coat of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black sprayed onto the tracks and the wheels. This makes it easier to paint the tyres and tracks later on.

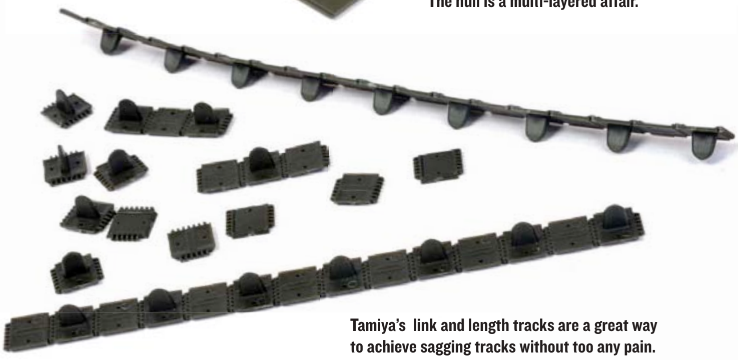
The base colour for my model was a blend of Tamiya XF-67 NATO Green lightened with XF-60 Dark Yellow. Two thin coats of Sin Industry's Green for Light Green ▶

The front steering wheels.

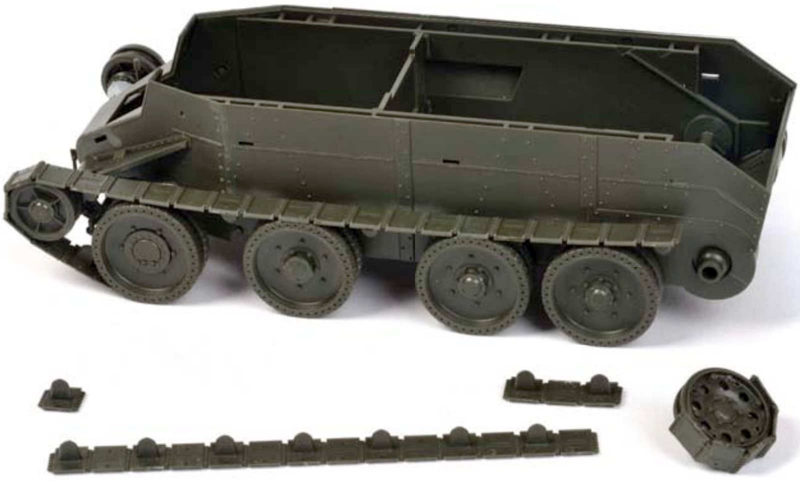
The hull is a multi-layered affair.

LIQUID
SURFACE PRIMER
サーフェイサー

Case texture was added in places.



Tamiya's link and length tracks are a great way to achieve sagging tracks without too any pain.



The lengths and links are glued to the running gear in the order suggested by the instructions.

Nice natural sag along the top run.

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

Tamiya 1:35 BT-7 Model 1935 • Kit No. 35309

◀ Filter (from Mig Productions) was brushed on to break up the overall colour.

Archer dry transfers were used for the turret numbers and the small red stars.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Just as I thought I was closing on the finishing line I realised that I had forgotten to glue the handles on the mesh radiator covers. As long as I was going to have to repaint the cover anyway, I also decided to add some more prominent rivets to the photo-etched cover Around 50 .028″ rivets were made using a Waldron Sub-Miniature Punch and Die set and glued to the radiator mesh and rear stowage box hinges.

Several photos of BT-5s and BT-7s show stacks of folded material strapped to the rear fenders. I am not sure what these are – tarpaulins perhaps, or blankets – but I reproduced them for my tank. I first attempted to roll Milliput thinly and fold the resulting skinny pancakes into a rectangular shape. Despite using greaseproof paper and flour, the Milliput stuck to my fingers, the glass jar I was trying to roll it with, and to itself. It was a disaster.

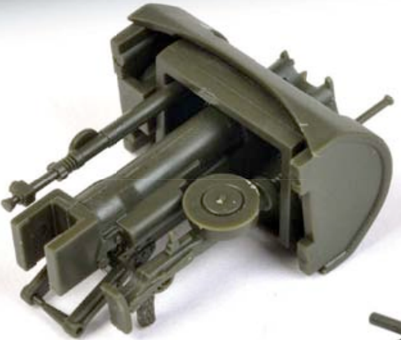
I took the easy way out and simply folded a single sheet of thick lead foil, cut into a 2 centimetre wide strip. Photo-etched straps from an old Show Modelling detail set were glued to the lead stack.

CONCLUSION

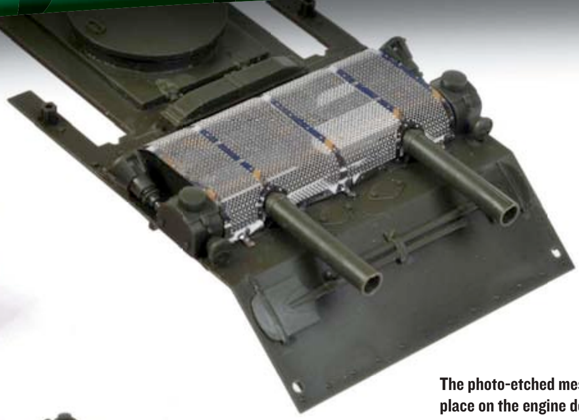
Tamiya's 1:35 scale BT-7 Model 1935 is a really lovely model. The subject is significant, having seen service in the Spanish Civil War and in the first years of the Great Patriotic War, and being the predecessor to the war winning T-34.

What is more important to we modellers though, is that the kit is well detailed and accurate. The model does not fall together, but it does fit perfectly as long as you are paying attention. ■

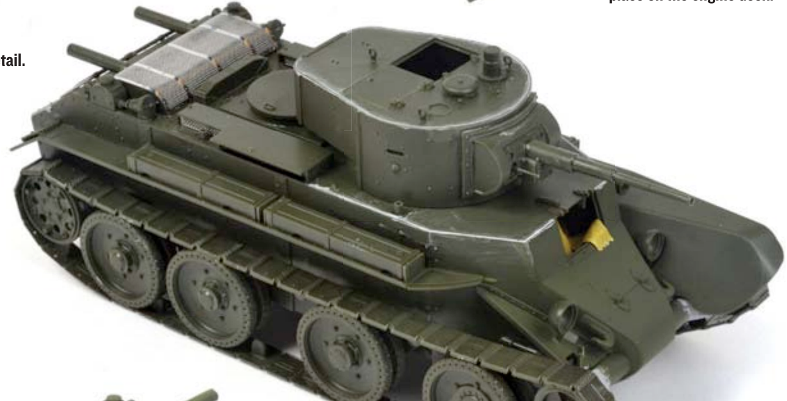
Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net



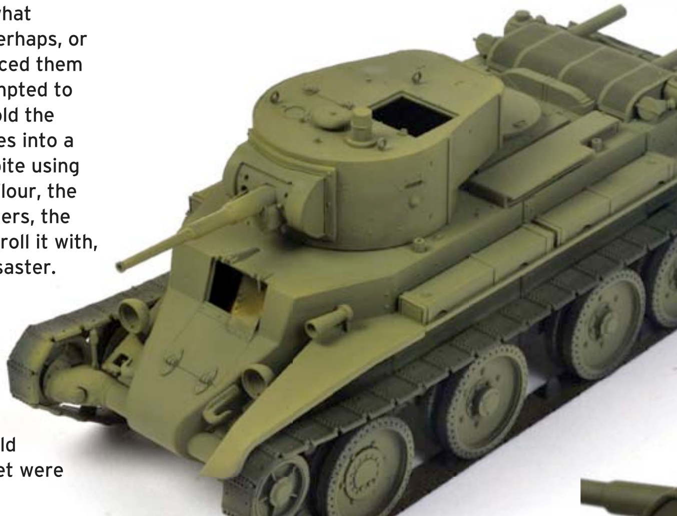
Breech, DT-5 machine gun and sight detail.



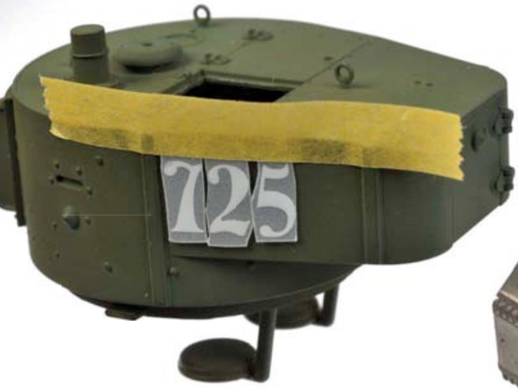
The photo-etched mesh in place on the engine deck.



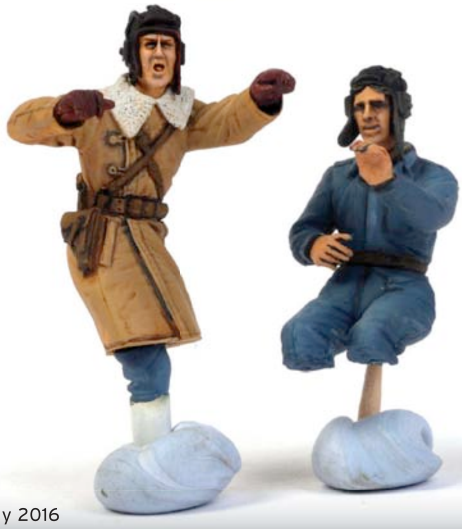
The model was built straight from the box although one front fender was left off.



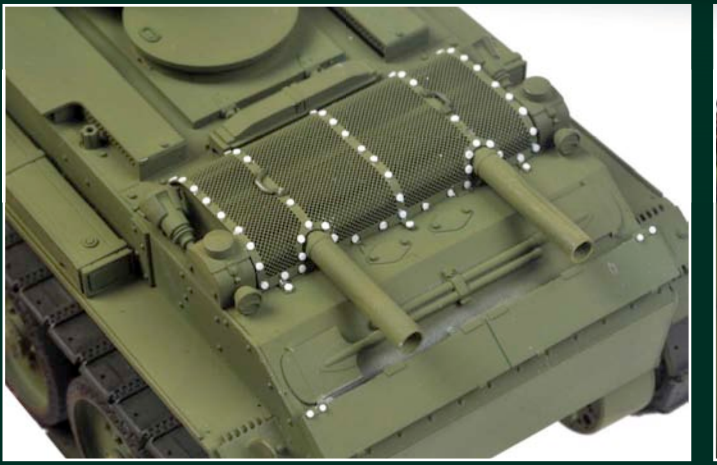
The base colour for my model was a blend of Tamiya XF-67 NATO Green lightened with XF-60 Dark Yellow.



Archer dry transfers were used for the turret numbers and the small red stars.



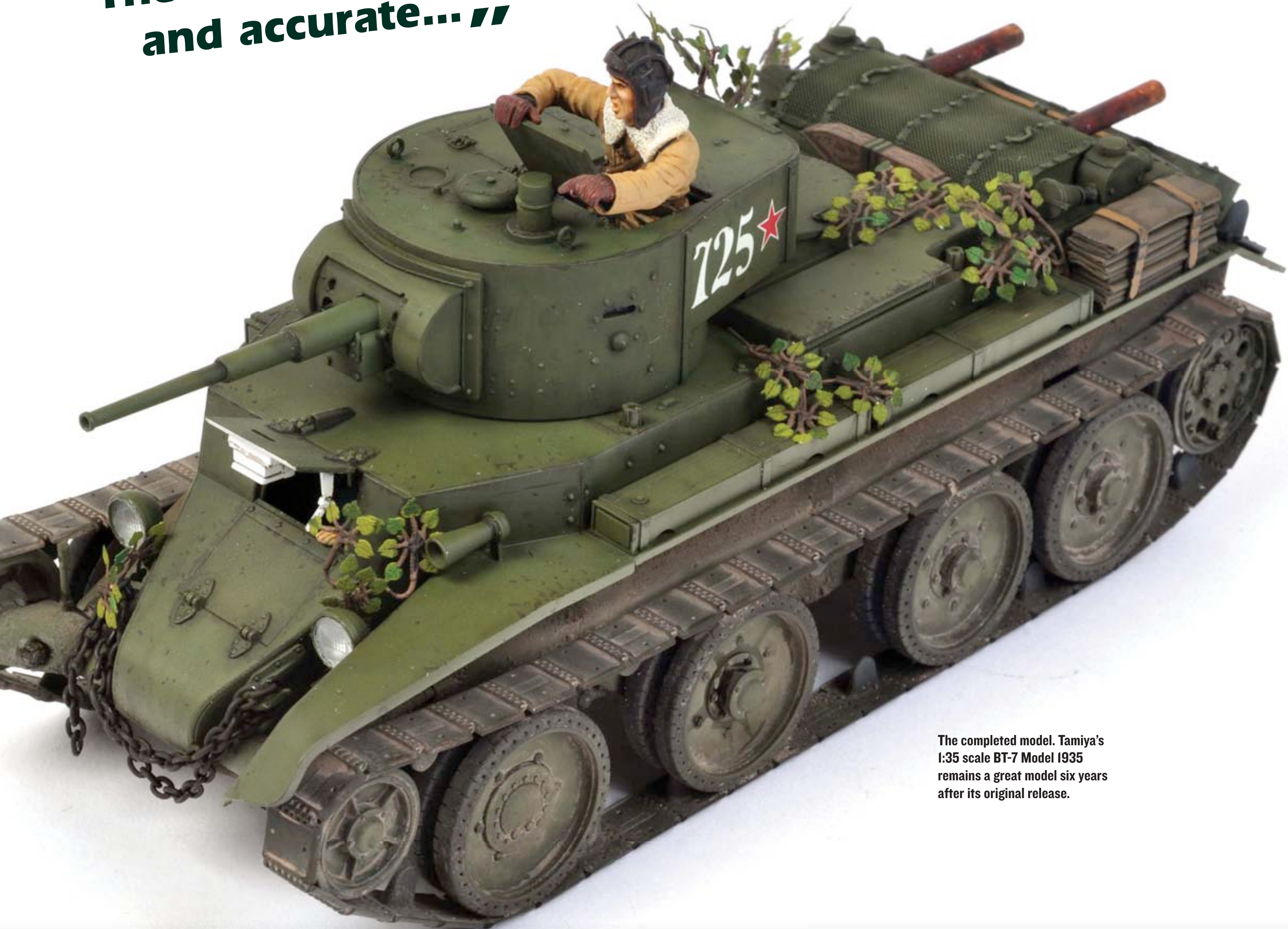
The Commander is adapted from a "Doug's Originals" resin figure, while the driver is made up from an Alpine head on a Tristar body.



I punched rivets from plastic sheet using my Waldron Punch and Die.

Foliage was added to the vehicle for some variety.

"The kit is well detailed and accurate…"



The completed model. Tamiya's 1:35 scale BT-7 Model 1935 remains a great model six years after its original release.

NSW SCALE MODEL COM

The Editor heads south of Sydney to visit the 2016 NSW Scale Model Competition and Expo.

I visited the 2016 NSW Scale Model Competition and Expo on the first weekend of May this year, hosted as usual by the Illawarra Plastic Modellers Association and open to all modellers, whether club members or not.

This is the event's second year in its new venue, the Illawarra Sports Stadium. This is a large indoor and outdoor facility with two games of women's Netball being played on one side, and the model show being held on the other to a unique soundtrack of squeaking rubber-soled shoes and umpires whistles. The new venue is bigger and brighter than the show's previous home.

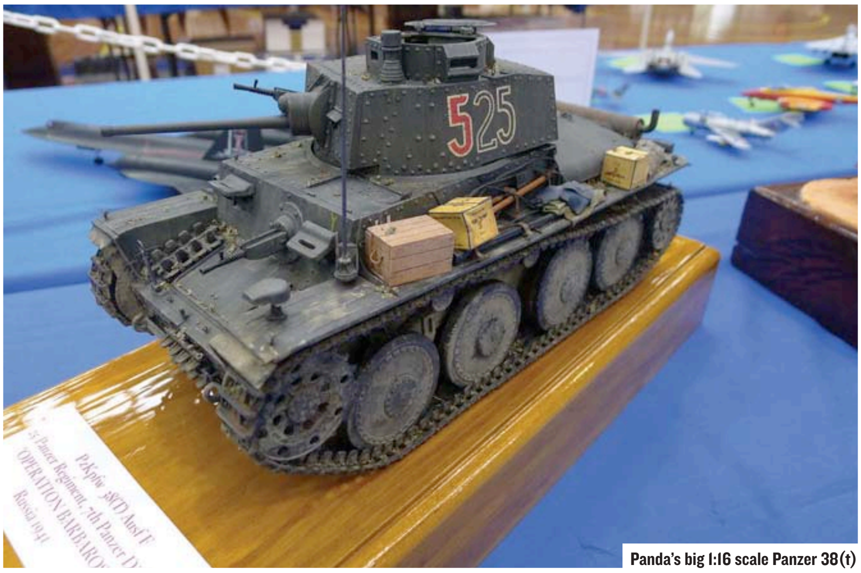
Attendance was slightly down this year due to the "Wings Over Illawarra" airshow being held nearby, but the standard of competition entries was as high as ever, with a good variety of subject matter and scales, including aircraft, armour, ships, submarines, figures, cars and more.

The NSW Scale Model Expo traditionally encourages younger models to participate and this year was no exception, with an impressive standard of junior models in competition.

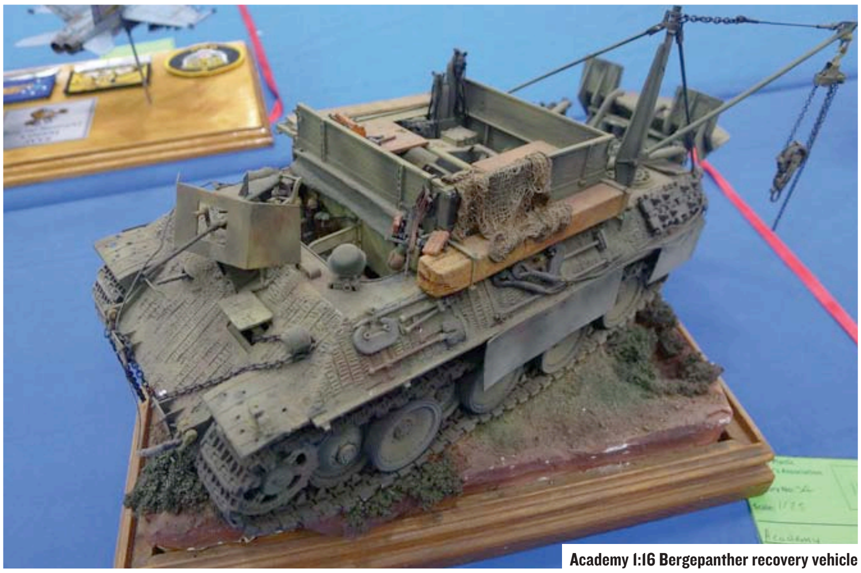
It was nice to see displays of militaria and pilot's helmets in addition to the kits in competition.

More than a dozen traders were also on hand; and the swap and sell tables were as busy as always. ■

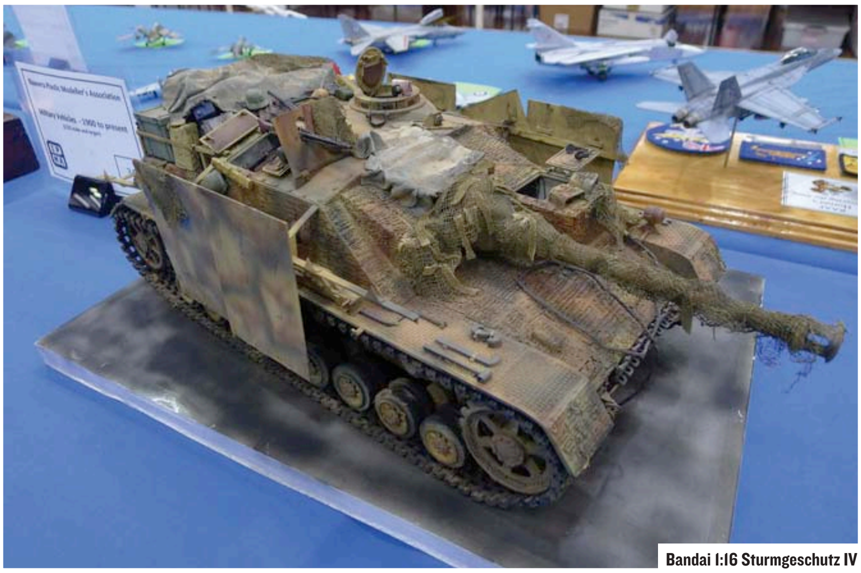
NSW
SCALE
MODEL
COMP
and
EXPO
OPEN



Panda's big 1:16 scale Panzer 38(t)



Academy 1:16 Bergepanther recovery vehicle



Bandai 1:16 Sturmgeschutz IV

PETITION AND EXPO 2016

Italeri 1:24 scale Land Rover Series IIa Pink Panther conversion

Tamiya 1:35 scale Jagdpanther G2

A lovely pair of 1:35 scale Panzer IIIs – an Ausf. A on the left and an Ausf. L on the right

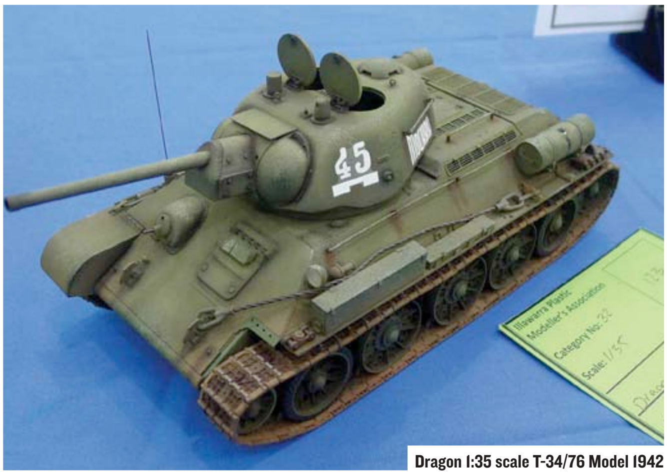
Great Wall Hobby's 1:35 scale sWS General Cargo Version

Mercedes Flak 37 made up from parts from Zvezda, Trumpeter and Bronco

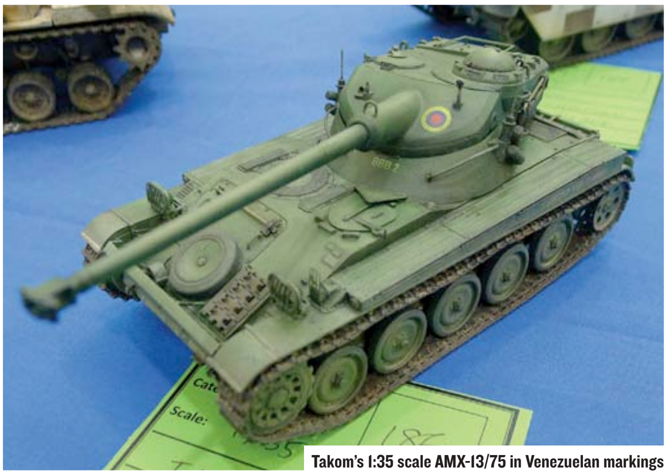
Dragon's 1:35 scale Nashorn

Takom's 1:35 scale Mark V Tank in a striking Estonian Army scheme

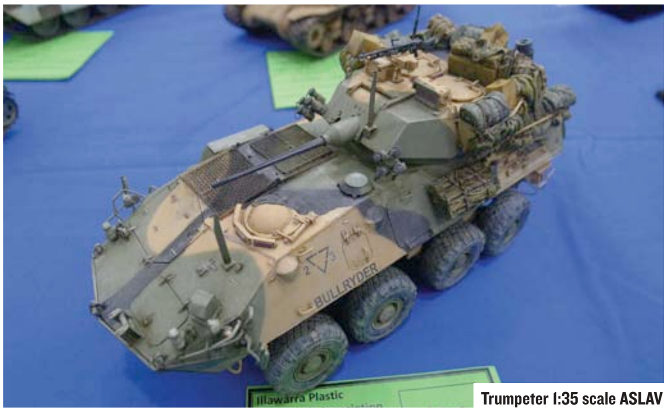
Italeri's 1:35 scale Crusader Mk.III in a weathered desert finish


45
Illawarra Plastic Modeller's Association
Category No: 22
Scale: 1/35

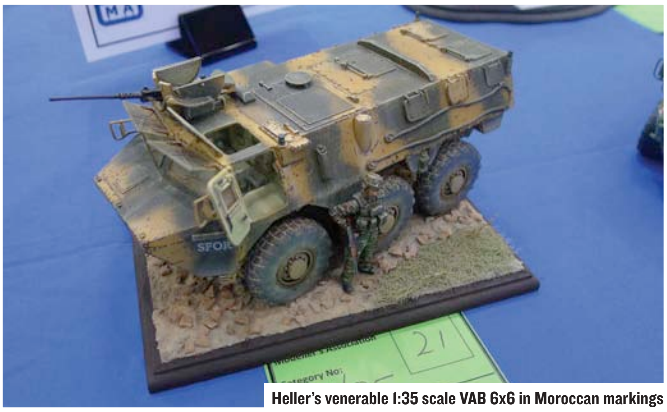
Dragon 1:35 scale T-34/76 Model 1942



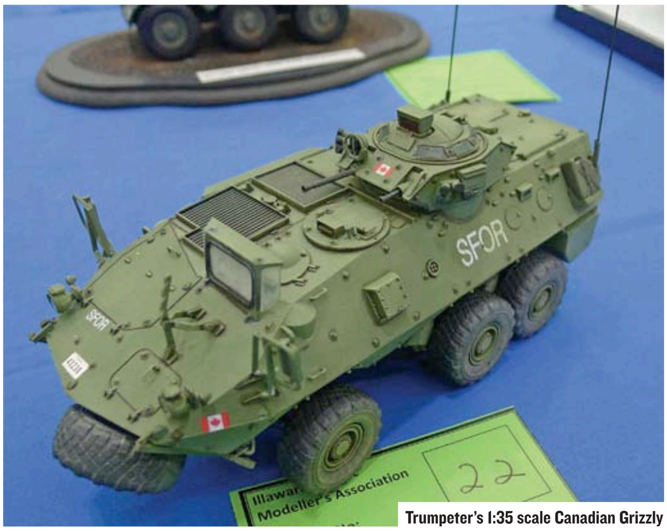
Takom's 1:35 scale AMX-13/75 in Venezuelan markings


BULLRYDER
Illawarra Plastic

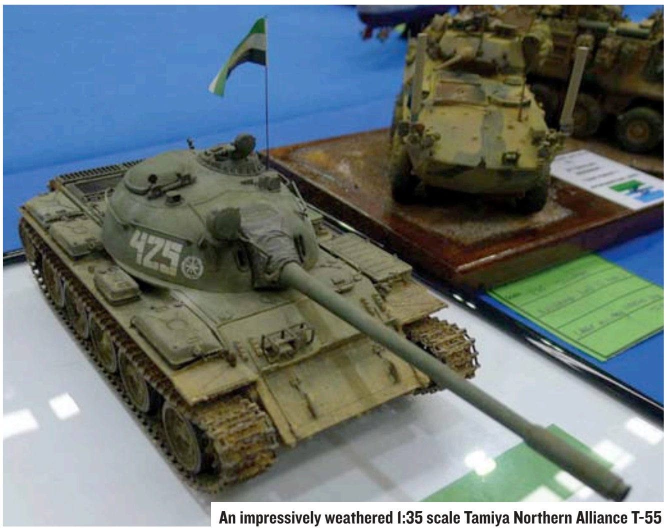
Trumpeter 1:35 scale ASLAV



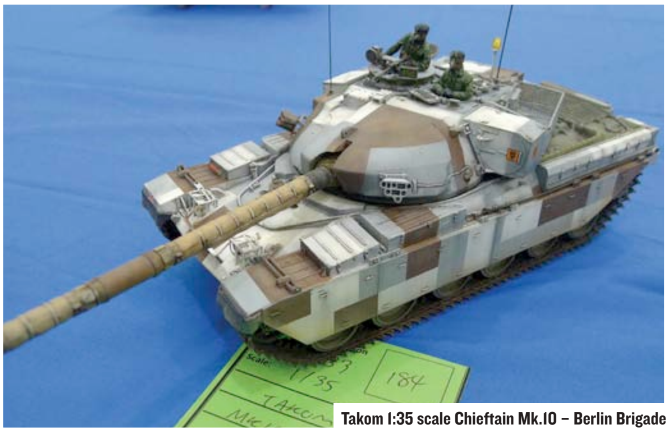
Heller's venerable 1:35 scale VAB 6x6 in Moroccan markings


SFOR
Illawarra Plastic Modeller's Association
22

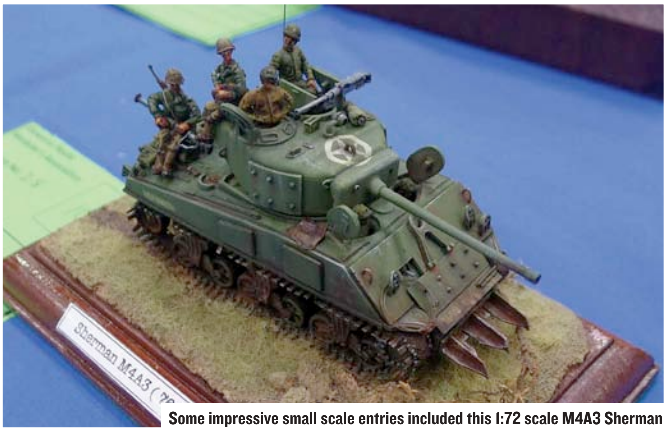
Trumpeter's 1:35 scale Canadian Grizzly



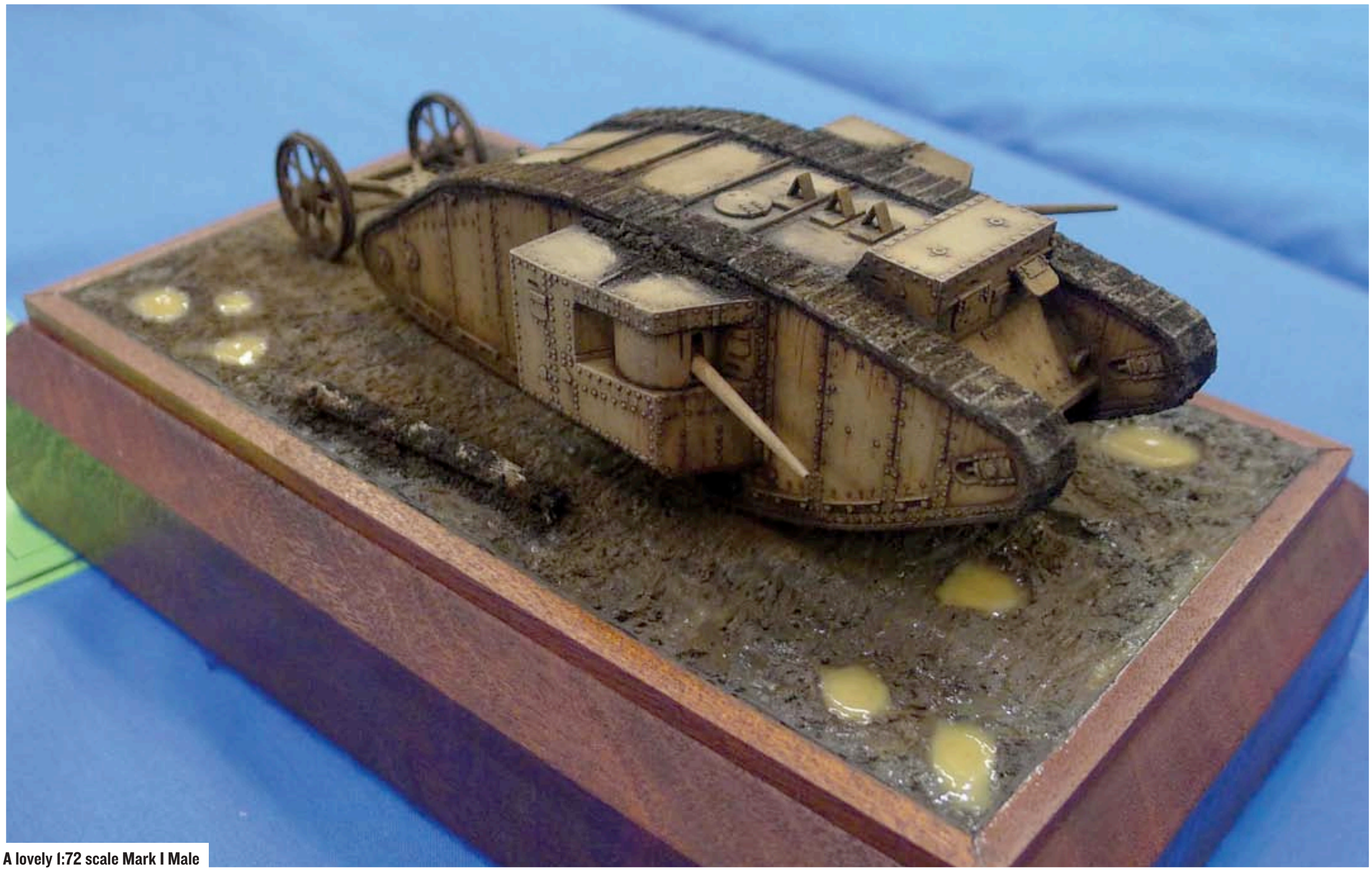
An impressively weathered 1:35 scale Tamiya Northern Alliance T-55

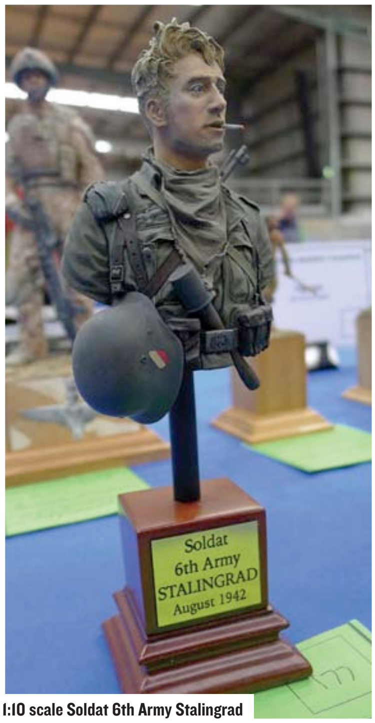

Scale: 1/35
184

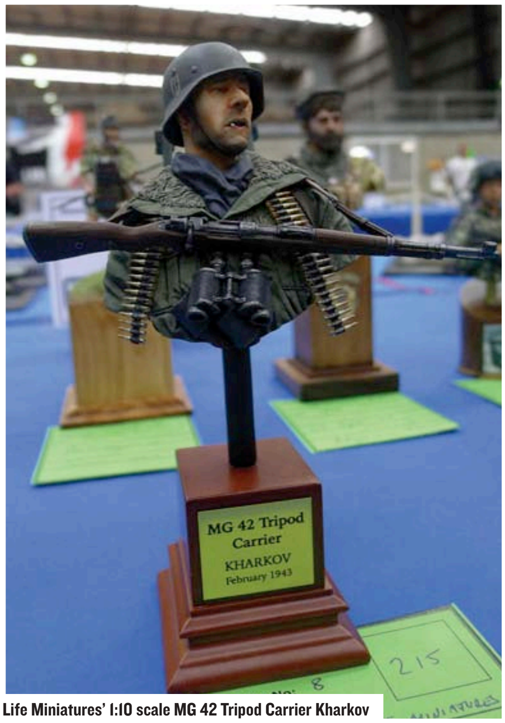
Takom 1:35 scale Chieftain Mk.10 – Berlin Brigade

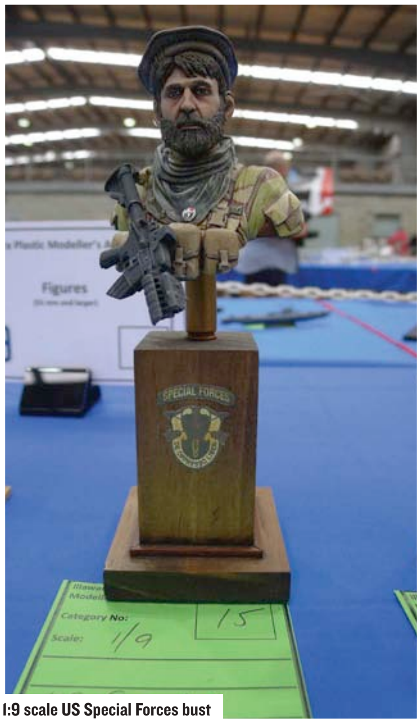

Sherman M4A3

Some impressive small scale entries included this 1:72 scale M4A3 Sherman


A lovely 1:72 scale Mark I Male


Soldat
6th Army
STALINGRAD
August 1942
1:10 scale Soldat 6th Army Stalingrad


MG 42 Tripod
Carrier
KHARKOV
February 1943
Life Miniatures' 1:10 scale MG 42 Tripod Carrier Kharkov


SPECIAL FORCES
Category No:
Scale: 1/9
15
1:9 scale US Special Forces bust

The show was staffed by IPMA club volunteers

Registering entries

Plenty of traders were on hand

Incoming

TAMIYA

1:35 SCALE
M107 US SELF-PROPELLED GUN, VIETNAM WAR
ITEM NO. 37021

The M107 was first developed in 1957, equipped with a large calibre 175mm gun mounted on a small lightweight chassis designed so it could be airlifted.

It had a crew of 13 to fire the weapon: five travelling in the vehicle, and the other eight in a M548 cargo carrier. The weapon was mounted on an unprotected mount and also attached to the vehicle was a hydraulic spade to counter the recoil.

The gun itself had a range of 32 kms, making it a very effective support weapon.

In 1965, the gun saw its first deployment to a war zone in Vietnam. It was used heavily during the period of Jan - April 1968 during the battle of Khe Sahn. At the end of the war for the US forces in Vietnam, the M107s were passed on to the South Vietnamese who used them until the fall of Saigon in 1975.

Its always nice to see re-releases of older kits, especially when Tamiya get their hands on them and re-tool and clean up the moulds for a sharper newer look. On top of that, Tamiya has added their own equipment, weapons and figures to give you a complete vignette in the box.

That is exactly what has happened here with Italeri's old but still good 1:35 scale M107SPG. When I saw this I was quite keen to see how it looked after Tamiya had woven their magic on it.

Looking at the box, we find typical Tamiya box art, with the only thing giving away it is Italeri being the logo on the box front. Inside you have five sprues of plastic parts for the kit and also the extra gear and figures. We can clearly see that the moulds have been cleaned right up, and the detail is a lot sharper than before.

Some parts may even have been re-tooled, such as lights and shields.

There are are three figures included that are of older Tamiya issue, but very appropriate for this kit. A table and chair set, some weapons and equipment and shells are supplied as well.

There are 251 plastic parts, a set of full-length flexible tracks and a length of rubber tube. Also in the box is a small decal sheet giving you an option of two vehicles, both having served in Vietnam, and lastly a set of instructions, clearly marked and drawn with profile shots at the end giving you decal placement.

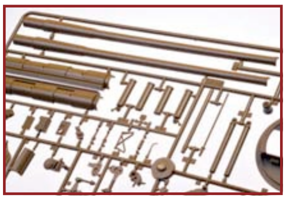
In summary, I think this is a great choice of kit to bring back out, and will be of great interest to those interested in the subject of the Vietnam War. As for myself, stay tuned, as I will be building this one very soon,

Recommended to all level of modellers.

Thanks to Tamiya for the sample www.tamiya.com

Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

M107
U.S.
SELF-PROPELLED GUN M107
(VIETNAM WAR)
ITALERI
TAMIYA
1/35th SCALE



PROUD
AMERICAN
TAMIYA, INC.

5 ADJUSTABLE NON SMELLING WASHES
LIQUID PIGMENTS
RUST WIZARD
DETAIL EMPHASIZER
TANKS & VEHICLES
RAIN AND DUST MAKEUP
REMOVER
LIFECOLOR

LIFECOLOR

LP01, LP02, LP03
LIQUID PIGMENTS
DETAIL EMPHASIZER TANKS AND VEHICLES, RUST WIZARD, RAIN AND DUST MAKEUP

Modellers are always looking for new products to weather their models and to create all those fantastic effects that you see in books and magazines. The easier to use the better. Lifeolor has now released this new range of liquid pigments to help you do so, being able to create many effects. There are three sets here that can be used on many a project.

The first is a Detail Emphasizer set with five colours, LPW01 Burnt Umber, LPW02 Black Umber, LPW03 Burned Olive Green, LPW04 Black Grey, LPW05 Colonial Dark Sand plus a free bottle of remover which is included in all sets. This set is used as a series of washes to enhance details, panel lines as the first step to weathering your kit.

The second set is Rust Wizard with the following colours: LPW06 Deep Rust, LPW07 Eroding Light Rust, LPW08 Eroding Dark Rust, LPW09 Orange Marks, LPW10 Yellow Marks, plus a bonus bottle of remover. As you can probably guess, this set is designed to create rust effects to various degrees. You can mix these colours as well to create your own effects.

Lastly we have Rain and Dust Makeup with the following colours: LPW11 Rain Marks, LPW12 Road Dust, LPW13 Light Earth, LPW14 Dark Dust LPW15 Soot, and not forgetting the free bottle of remover. This set can potentially create many effects from dusty wheels, built up grime, streaks, blemishes, exhaust stains - the list just goes on.

All of these sets are made to go with each other, giving the modeller the opportunity to create a very impressive finish. The products may be applied with a paint brush, airbrush or any way you like. They can be mixed, blended and if the effect is overdone, removed using the provided remover. I think that this new product should prove to become a very popular product for many, and coming from Lifecolor, you know that it will work well. I look forward to seeing what other sets may come in the future for this range. I recommend you give this a go.

Recommended.

Thanks to The Airbrush Company Limited for the samples www.airbrushes.com

Andrew Judson

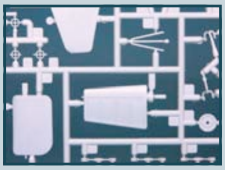
ADJUSTABLE NON
LIQUI
PIGM

ADJUSTABLE NON-SMELLING
LIQUID
PIGMENTS
LIFECOLOR

Maritime - MMI explores the latest military maritime releases...

Sail deck – lovely recessed detail.

The long sail typical of these late Type IXc U-Boats.


There are some very slight sink marks on the hydroplanes and rudders.

Nice gun detail.

There is flash on some of the parts.

Sail deck railing.

The main deck detail is really well done.

Surface textures are excellent. Ideally, it would be good to open the flood vents for the typical see-through effect.

The forward hull.

REVELL

1:72 SCALE TYPE IXC/40 U-BOAT (U-190) • KIT NO. 05133

A direct development of the unsuccessful Type IA U-boat, the Type IX was a larger submarine designed to have a greater operating range than the Type VII then in service. Although bigger than the earlier types, the larger size came with the penalty of slower dive times, which left the Type IX vulnerable to surface attack. On some Type IXs (such as the one featured in this kit) the outer casing on the foredeck was cut away in an attempt to improve dive times although it wasn't certain if this modification made any difference.

The subject of this particular kit, U-190, was launched on 3 June 1942 and served up until the war's end. It had six operational cruises, sinking the 7,015 ton cargo ship Empire Lakeland on 8 March 1943 and the minesweeper HMCS Esquimault on 16 April 1945 off the coast of Canada. The captain of U-190 (Hans-Edwin Reith) surrendered the vessel to Canadian forces on 11 May then in June that same year U-190 was commissioned into the Royal Canadian Navy as an anti-submarine training vessel before being decommissioned and eventually scuttled in 1947.

This kit is the second 1:72 scale Type IXC that Revell has kitted and as mentioned above it is one of the types with the modified foredeck. As you can imagine, the model is huge, measuring some 106cm (a tad over 42 inches in old money) and will need some serious shelf space.

Although it is a big kit there are only around 180 parts in the box, so it's not too daunting.

Surprisingly for a relatively new tool kit, there is a fair amount of flash present on some parts and some very slight sink marks on the hydroplanes and rudders. The seam lines are a bit heavy on some parts too, especially on the railings around the 'winter garden' (the rear deck on the conning tower) and with the attached mould pins they will need some careful cleaning up without breaking them. For some reason (maybe Revell couldn't get bigger boxes) the hull is split into two at the rear. Unfortunately the join is not on a natural seam line so cleaning up will result in the loss of some detail.

Detailing is, on the whole, pretty good although due to the scale some parts such as the snorkel are simplified. The flood vents on the hull sides are moulded solid and the hull decking should really be see through as this was wooden planking laid over steel frames.

Looking at pictures I took of a Type IXC (the U-534) near me before the sub was cut into four sections, it would appear there may be too many of the rectangular indents in the lower hull plus a couple of round holes are missing. Also, some of the round vent holes are simplified and would look better with etched parts.

I taped the hull and decking together just to see how it all went together and I'm pleased to report that considering the size of the parts the fit is excellent.

My advice before gluing the hull together would be to join the front and rear parts first as it will be easier to clean up the joints.

One thing that definitely needs throwing away is the cotton thread supplied for the rigging. It is noticeably fuzzy. Nylon thread or EZ Line would look far superior.

There is just one colour option for U-190 and the difference between the two on the instructions is for how it looked pre-surrender with Kriegsmarine flag (you have to supply your own swastika for the middle); and the boat's star emblem or post-surrender with the Royal Canadian Navy ensign and U-190 in white letters on the conning tower.

There is actually a third option as before the sub was towed out to sea for the last time it was apparently painted with broad red and yellow stripes!

This is a nice kit (if big) and with some TLC it can be turned into an impressive model. It has been simplified in some areas but nothing that can't be improved on. The biggest task will be to open all the flood vents to get a see-through effect.

Now to measure up a shelf big enough for it…

Revell model kits are available from all good toy and model retailers. For details visit www.revell.de/en

History via Wikipedia.

REFERENCES:

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- Enigma U-boats-Breaking The Code by Jak P Mallman Showell (Ian Allen Publishing ISBN 0-7110-2764-1).
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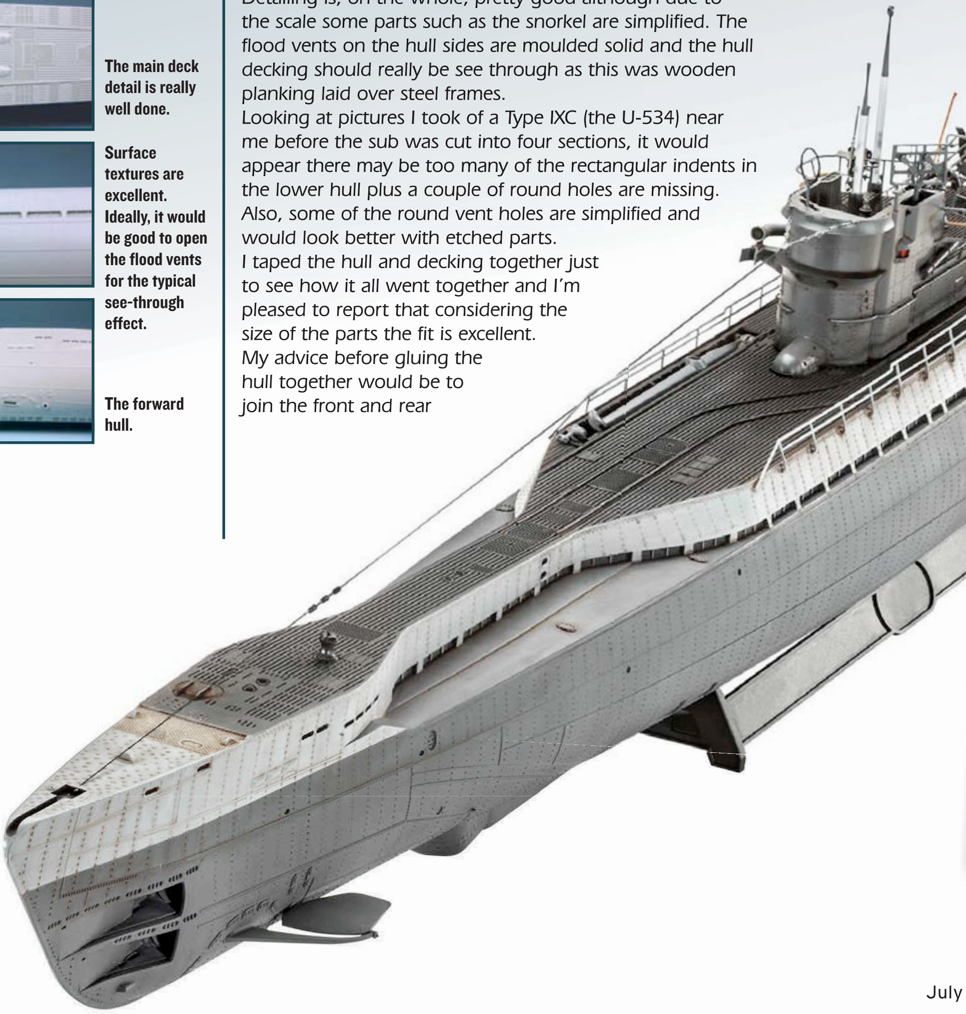
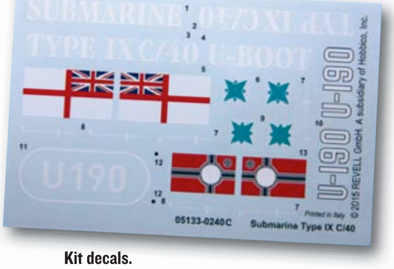
- http://www.uboatarchive.net/U-190.htm




SUBMARINE TYPE IX C/40 U-BOOT
U-190 U-190
U 190
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Submarine Type IX C/40
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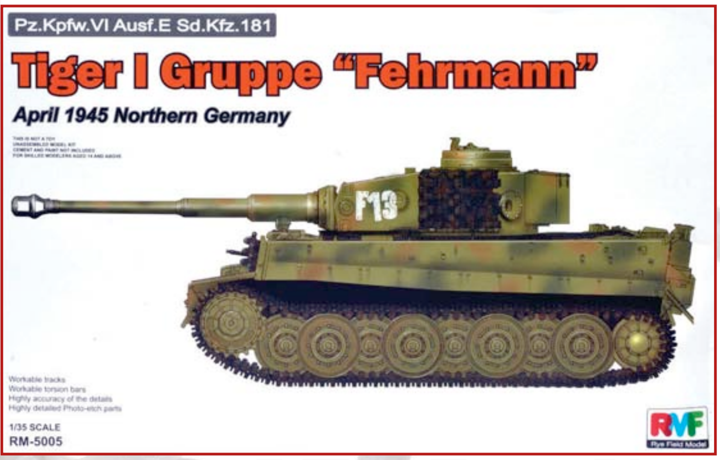
Kit decals.


Pz.Kpfw.VI Ausf.E Sd.Kfz.181
Tiger I Gruppe "Fehrmann"
April 1945 Northern Germany
F13
Workable tracks
Workable torsion bars
Highly accuracy of the details
Highly detailed Photo-etch parts
1/35 SCALE
RM-5005
RMF
Rye Field Model

The Editor examines the newest 1:35 scale Tiger I on the block – Ryefield Models' Tiger I Gruppe Fehrmann.

ULTIMATE TIGER

At the beginning of 1945, Kampfgruppe Schulze and Oberleutnant Fehrmann formed a division of six Tiger I and five Panther tanks with the intention of going into the Ruhr area. The Tiger tanks were commanded by Oberleutnant Ferhmann and were designated with 'F' to denote their 'Gruppe' commander hence F01, F02, F03 and up to F13.

On 6 April 1945, the group reached the river Aller near Rethem when one Tiger was lost due to a mechanical failure. The following day the company reached Nienburg and a Grenadier Division was attached to them. On 9 April the Panthers entered the town of Wiethesheim where they engaged in a fierce battle with the Allies. Out of the five Panthers, only one returned along with the commander.

During the counter-attack, Tiger F02 suffered a PIAT hit on the right side of the turret and another that damaged the gun mantlet. Two other Tigers continued the thrust where they eventually captured 30 British paratroopers. Fehrmann's Tiger F02 returned to Fallingbostel where a replacement mantlet was fitted.

11 April 1945 saw the remaining tanks entering enemy controlled territory to Buckeburg. Along the way, two Tigers became stuck in the mud and when a Panther tried to recover them, it too was stuck. With no other way to recover them, the tanks were destroyed and their crews eventually captured by the Allies, and Fehrmann along with them.

On the same day, two other Tigers were involved in a tank battle with US tanks. F13 (commanded by Feldwebel Bellof) was lost along with her crew. F05, commanded by Kampfgruppe Schulze, destroyed 3 Shermans and a scout car then retreated to Wendthagen.*

The Fehrmann Tigers were made up from an unusual combination of early and late Tiger features.

Ryefield Model has released a 1:35 scale Tiger I Gruppe Fehrmann, and it is a remarkable model.

The kit is made up from a whopping 1,622 plastic parts, a photo-etched fret, a roll of soft copper wire for the tow cables, a zimmerit tool and markings for all six Fehrmann Tiger Is.

Despite the daunting parts count, assembly of the vehicle itself looks pretty straightforward. The massive number of parts is swollen by the five-part track links and the large selection of optional parts.

There is one full set of early rubber-rimmed road wheels and a second full set of late metal wheels. The wheels are presented simply as outer and inner halves – no separate tyres here thank goodness.

There are four different styles of gun mantlet included, as well as early (dustbin) and late cuploas, three styles of drive sprocket, early and late starboard turret sides, two styles of loader's hatch, alternative stowage bins and even the Feifel air cleaners.

Many of these options will not be used for this model, but they greatly increase the versatility of versions that can be built straight from the box, and will certainly boost the contents of your spares drawer!

Clear parts are supplied for the cupola, vision blocks and scopes.

Surface textures are world class, as is the level of detail generally. The road wheels simply slip over their axles and are held in place with a small plastic washer.

Tool clamps are supplied as separate photo-etched parts, and hatches may be left workable to open and close.

The running gear is built up like the real thing with workable torsion bars

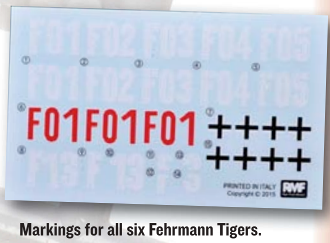
The tracks make up the majority of the parts – 1,104 parts in all. There are 192 individual track links to which are added two separate hollow guide horns and two track pins – so five parts per link. The track links are attached to the sprues at two points each, while the pins and guide horns have one attachment point. An assembly jig is included, and the pins may be inserted four at a time, so assembly may be a bit quicker than it might appear based on the sheer number of parts.

In keeping with their rag-tag configuration, the six vehicles wore different configurations of zimmerit, from none at all to full coverage. Ryefield's instructions include diagrams illustrating the level of zimmerit coverage on the three vehicles. Furthermore, they offer a set of photo-etched zimmerit trowels in the box, ready to use on your choice of zimmerit putty.

Markings are supplied for all six vehicles.

This is the first Ryefield Model kit that I have seen, and I am very impressed. Detail is magnificent, the options are comprehensive, instructions are clear and the whole package exudes luxury. My only reservation is the five-part track links, but even these have been designed to speed assembly as much as possible with their four-at-a-time track pins.

Highly Recommended. ■

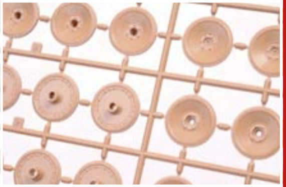


Markings for all six Fehrmann Tigers.

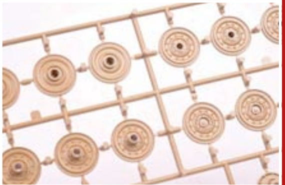
Thanks to Ryefield Model for the sample www.ryefield-model.com

The lower hull tub.

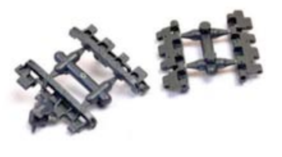
Many options are offered.



Early style road wheels...

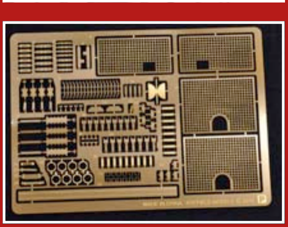


...plus a full set of late-style road wheels are included.

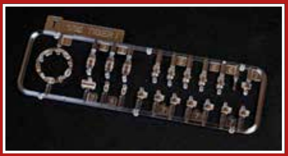


Individual track links...

...to which are added two track pins and two hollow guide teeth each.



The kit's photo-etched fret.



The clear sprue.

MADE IN CHINA RYEFIELD MODELS © 2015
V
B

A set of four zimmerit trowels are included.

Soft copper wire for the tow cables – luxurious!

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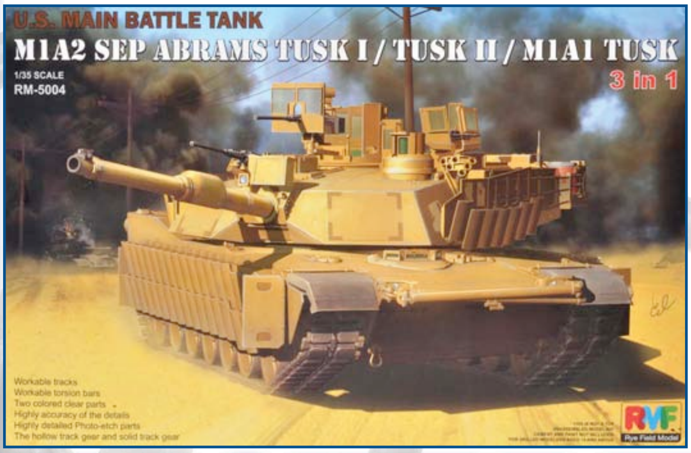
* Historical information sourced from Axis History Forum http://forum.axishistory.com


U.S. MAIN BATTLE TANK
M1A2 SEP ABRAMS TUSK I / TUSK II / M1A1 TUSK
1/35 SCALE
RM-5004
3 in 1
Workable tracks
Workable torsion bars
Two colored clear parts
Highly accuracy of the details
Highly detailed Photo-etch parts
The hollow track gear and solid track gear
RFM
Rye Field Model

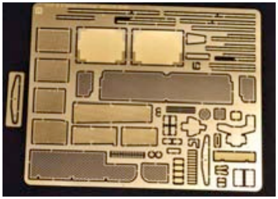
The Editor examines the contents of Ryefield Model's all-new 1:35 scale Abrams, which may be built as one of three distinct versions.

VERSATILE ABRAMS

The M1 Abrams is an American third-generation main battle tank. Highly mobile, designed for modern armoured ground warfare, the M1 is well armed and heavily armoured. Notable features include the use of a powerful multi-fuel turbine engine, the adoption of sophisticated composite armour, and separate ammunition storage in a blow-out compartment for crew safety. Weighing nearly 68 short tons (almost 62 metric tons), it is one of the heaviest main battle tanks in service.

Three main versions of the M1 Abrams have been deployed, the M1, M1A1, and M1A2, incorporating improved armament, protection, and electronics. These improvements and other upgrades to in-service tanks have allowed this long-serving vehicle to remain in front-line service. In addition, development for the improved M1A3 version has been known since 2009.

Clear and tinted sprues are included.


The kit's photo-etch.

GREMLIN
GREMLIN
GHETTO BLASTER II
GHETTO BLASTER II
RMF
Markings for three vehicles are supplied.

Due to the vulnerability of tanks in urban combat, the Tank Urban Survival Kit (or TUSK) was issued to some M1 Abrams tanks. It added protection in the rear and side of the tank to improve fighting ability in urban environments.*

Ryefield's 1:35 scale Abrams hit the Editor's desk at the same time as their Tiger I.

The approach is almost identical for both models, despite the diverse subject matter. Parts count comes in at a hefty 1,899 plastic pieces, plus a relatively modest photo-etched fret.

597 parts are in tan coloured plastic, making up the majority of the vehicle. A clear sprue and a green tinted sprue each add another 77 parts for vision blocks, armoured glass and drink bottles.

Surface textures are the best of all the Abrams kits currently available, with convincing and restrained non-slip texture on the top of the hull and the turret.

Similar to the Tiger, Ryfeild offers many optional parts to configure this model. In fact, all the parts are there to build any one of three quite distinct versions:

- M1A1 TUSK
- M1A2 SEP Abrams TUSK 1
- M1A2 SEP Abrams TUSK II

This means that you'll have plenty of parts for the spares box.

The instructions are laid out logically and the options are clearly indicated in different sections and with colour coding.

Baskets and railings are all presented in injection moulded plastic, and they look great.

The road wheels are attached to swing arms, which in turn attach to workable torsion bars. Once again, the road wheels are sensibly and simply moulded with the tyres as outer and inner wheels.

In fact, despite the large number of parts and high level of detail, most of the engineering decisions to do with parts breakdown seem to be quite modeller friendly.

Until we come to the tracks.

In total, Ryefield Model supplies 1,148 parts for the tracks. These are made up from four separate track pads per link (two outer and two inner) plus a joining part with the two track pins and end connectors, and a separate guide horn. Two optional guide horn styles are offered. In fact, Ryefield seems to have provided a large number of extra parts but even so, I cannot imagine that assembling six parts per track link for two runs of 78 links in the supplied jig will be therapeutic.

True, the tracks will be fully workable, but it is also worth noting that the Abrams' track is "live", and therefore does not sag at all along the top run. Unless you want to display your Abrams on uneven ground (or buzz it around the lounge room), the workable feature is not really relevant. The majority of the track run is hidden behind skirts and armour anyway.

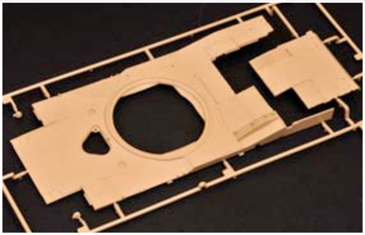
In my opinion, what this kit really needs is a set of Dragon or Tamiya style full-length flexible tracks as an option. By all means include the super detailed tracks, but I do hope that Ryefield considers offering the easier option for the average modeller (myself included) in future releases.

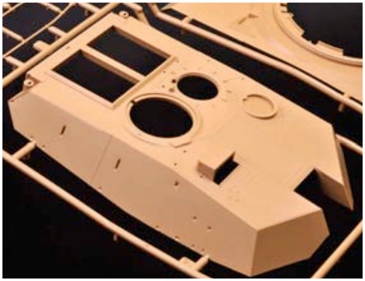
Now that I have that out of my system, I can tell you that I am deeply impressed with the quality of Ryefield Model's 1:35 scale Abrams. It is beautifully detailed, offers three interesting and distinct versions and generally looks eminently buildable.

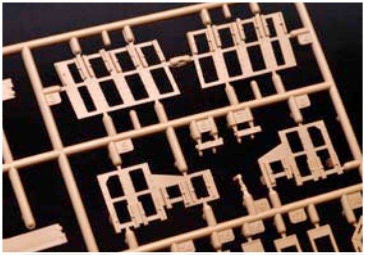
I look forward to seeing where Ryefield Model heads from now on!

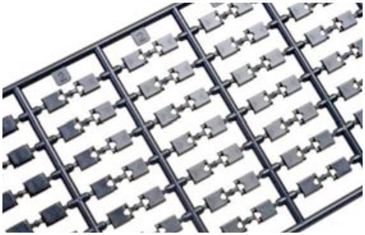
Highly Recommended to experienced modellers. ■

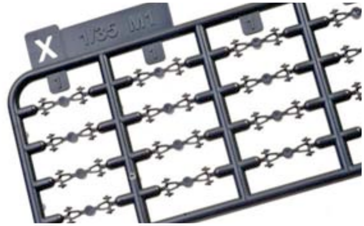
Thanks to Ryefield Model for the sample www.ryefield-model.com


The upper hull features non-slip texture where appropriate.


The one-piece upper turret shell.


Moulding quality is excellent.


The track links are made up from six parts each. These are the track pads.



The separate guide horns.

The track pins.

Two jigs allowing assembly of eight links in each are included.

* Historical background courtesy of Wikipedia.

STRUGGLING WITH CHOICE

I was tasked the other day with picking up some peanut butter. Simple, I thought. I went to the supermarket where I was confronted with 24 different varieties of peanut butter. I chose one, but as fate would have it, it was the wrong one.

Our modelling options used to be limited to the local hobby shops, which resulted in hobby shops being the curator of our modelling choices. The local hobby shop provided us with what they thought we would like or, more likely, what they thought would sell. Thanks to online shopping, we can now shop anywhere in the world, buy just about anything and all with the click of a button.

But what to choose? There's the rub.

Let's say you want to buy a new 1:48 scale armour kit or one of the bewildering array of weathering products on offer. This is where the comparison shopping begins, where you get caught up with endlessly researching the different products on offer.

You focus way too much on the nitty gritty of what separates one product or another by going to websites, reading reviews and in some cases, watching YouTube videos.

With 1:48 scale kits it is at least a little easier as there is generally only one choice; but weathering products? This is where the fun begins. Everybody seems to make some sort of weathering product or another and they all tell you it's simply the greatest invention since sliced bread, but will it really make a difference to how much you enjoy making a model? Probably not.

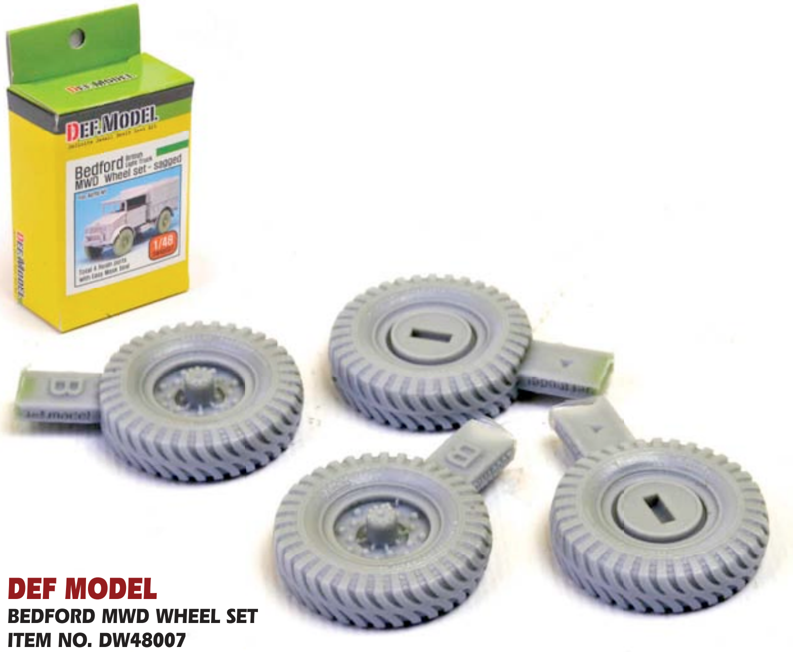
I have a modelling friend that simply refuses to follow any rules. Well before weathering was the standard, he weathered his models. Now, he simply refuses to do so and produces clean factory finishes. I admire his attitude. He does not follow but rather leads.

I seem to recall a few years ago now when I was building a 1:48 scale T-34 that I borrowed a book from our Editor and was simply blown away with the amount of information it contained. I too, had a fair bit of information on the type but was completely overwhelmed with the avalanche of information now at hand. Now a wag will tell you that you can never have too much choice or too much information but I'm here to tell you that's a load of bunkum!

I yearn for the days when I went to the hobby shop, picked a model that was on offer that I could afford, built the model in the afternoon and painted it the next day!

Triumph 3HW
AVRO SHACKLETON AEW.2
LEVEL 5

Until Next Time
Luke Pitt



DEF MODEL

BEDFORD MWD WHEEL SET
ITEM NO. DW48007

When Airfix released there MWD I quickly went out and purchased one. The first thing that struck me was the wheels. Now a smartie would also say that is the first thing I zero in on in any kit, but still...

They seemed to be the right shape but the tread pattern on the tyre itself was completely wrong. Try as I might, coming up with a solution by sourcing a suitable replacement tyre from another kit proved fruitless. I have not built the kit for that very reason - the lack of a suitable tyre.

All this has now changed with the introduction of this new wheel set from DEF Model. Cast as one piece, the wheels have crisp hub details and the unique English directional tread pattern on the tyres themselves. The sidewalls even have the manufactures logos on them. As with all DEF wheels, they exhibit a subtle yet effective flat spot on the bottom of the wheel itself.

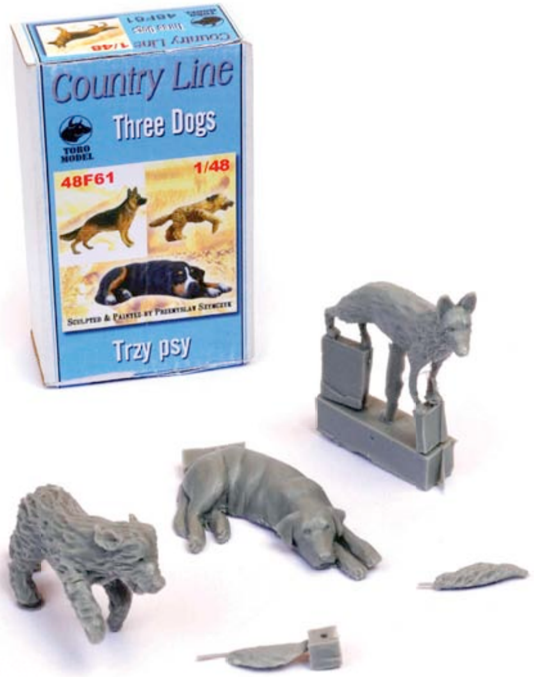
The set comes complete with a set of wheel paint masks.

Make no mistake. If you only buy one update for the Airfix MWD, get this one. Not only will they have a dramatic effect on the overall appearance of the kit, they will make it far more accurate.

Highly Recommended.

Our thanks go out to DEF Model for providing the review sample http://defmodel.com

Luke Pitt



TORO MODELS

1:48 SCALE
THREE DOGS
ITEM NO. 48F61

You have to hand it to Toro models. They always come up with choices that the others just don't seem to think of.

This new set is just such an example.. Three dogs - that's it. Three dogs in various poses. The pose I particularly like is the resting dog. All three dogs come as a one piece casting with little or no clean up required. These pieces will have endless possibilities and limitless potential.

Highly Recommended.

Our thanks go out to Toro Models for providing the review sample http://toro-model.home.pl

Luke Pitt

FIGURES WITH ATTITUDE

1:48 SCALE
STANDING GERMAN TANK CREW

I'll say this upfront. This batch of resin figures is probably the best overall figures in 1:48 that I have reviewed thus far. Bold words you may say, but really, these are every bit as detailed as a 120mm figures but in 1:48 scale.

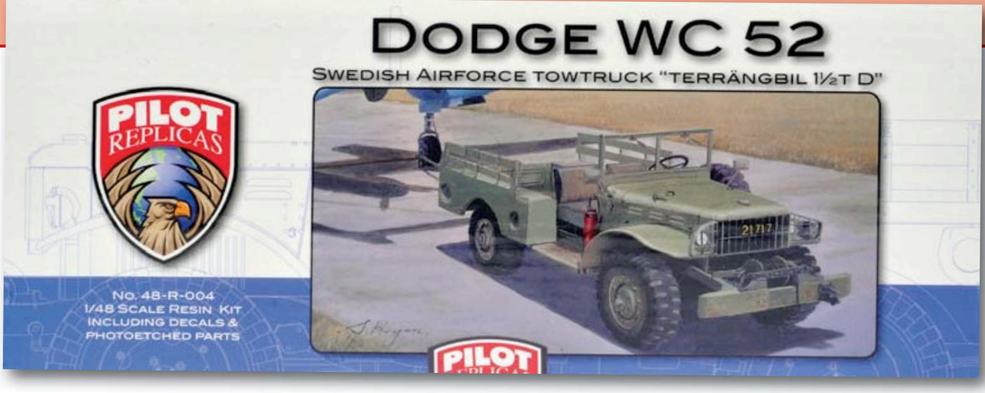
The casting is flawless on all figures sent for review and each figure comes complete with two different heads. The head sculpts are next to perfect and show great finesse in both detail and charter. The uniform details are handled incredibly well as are the fabric creases and indeed the casual posing of the figures themselves.

If you buy one set of 1:48 scale figures this year you should buy these, you will be simply amazed at the detail the exhibit.

Our thanks go out to Figures with Attitude for providing the review samples, they can be contacted on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/FiguresWithAttitude48/

Highly Recommended.

Luke Pitt



PILOT REPLICAS

1:48 SCALE
DODGE WC52
ITEM NO. 48-R-004

The Dodge WC series was a range of light military trucks produced by Dodge and Fargo during World War II. The series included weapon carriers, telephone installation trucks, ambulances, reconnaissance vehicles, mobile workshops and command cars. I have always been somewhat mystified on why this particular vehicle was not produced by Tamiya in 1:48 scale. It was used on almost all front line US airfields during the Second World War in various forms, and the carry-all version as reviewed on every front.

MIG Productions produced a carry-all version such as this a few years ago but it had a number of issues - you needed to correct the wheels and rear cargo bed to make it accurate.

This new release from the Scandinavian producer of Model Aircraft, Pilot Replicas, has produced an almost perfect example of the type. The kit come in a large white and I must say classy box with an accurate box top illustration.

I was taken aback with the presentation of this kit. It was either going to be very good or very bad. Happily, it was the former.

When I opened the box I was greeted with 52 very well cast mid-grey resin pieces. The kit comes complete with a separate ladder chassis, cast as one piece, onto which the trans axles complete with leaf springs are attached. A lot of thought has gone into this kit, as the parts breakdown follows almost exactly where the real vehicle is put together.

I like the approach as it makes the final build so much easier, as you really don't have to fill seams. A mere eight construction steps are all it takes to put this kit together. The wheel and tyre combination is somewhat unique as the hub is inserted from behind the tyre to produce the finished wheel. The approach works well as if assembled correctly. A fine gap should be present between the outer and inner rim, as it should be. The tyre is well done also, with the correct directional U.S. tread pattern in evidence, although it must be said the tyre looks as it has a lot of miles on it as it is almost bald.

A small photo-etched fret includes a windscreen surround, headlight guards and of all things a steering wheel. The steering wheel was probably not the best choice for the fret as the rim should be round, but nevertheless, this is the only real flaw in the kit itself.

Only one marking choice is provided for and that's for a Swiss Air Force tow truck - remember guys this is an aircraft kit manufacturer.

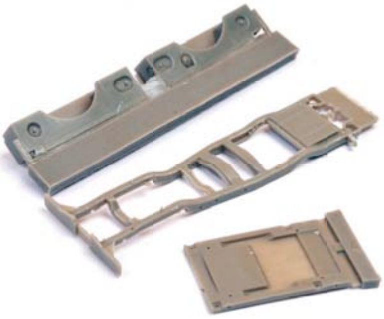
One of really nice and unique things about this kit is the wet weather tarp over the driver and passenger stations not only is the casting incredibly thin it is very well done with the folds in the fabric almost perfect.

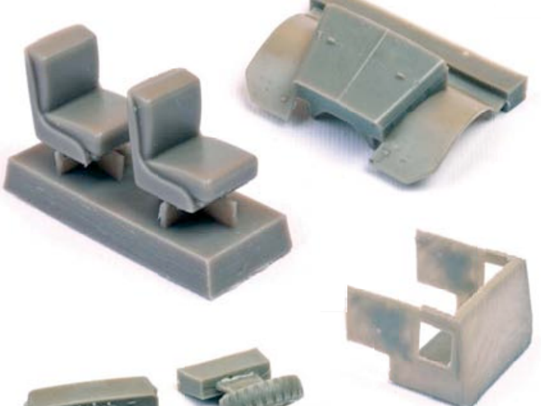
This is a very good kit but be warned, it is expensive. It is however the best current example of this type in 1:48 scale available today.

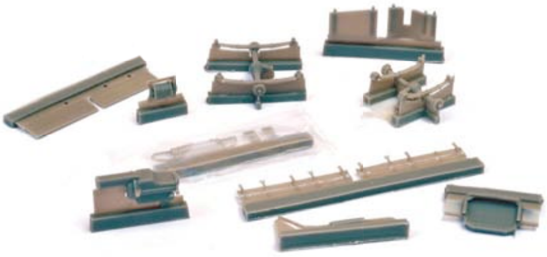
Our thanks go out to Pilot Replicas for providing the review sample http://pilot-replicas.com/

Highly Recommended.

Luke Pitt







PILOT REPLICAS
Dodge WC 52

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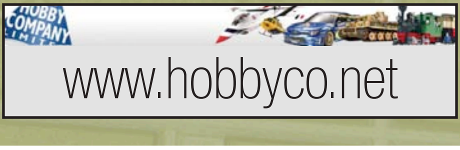

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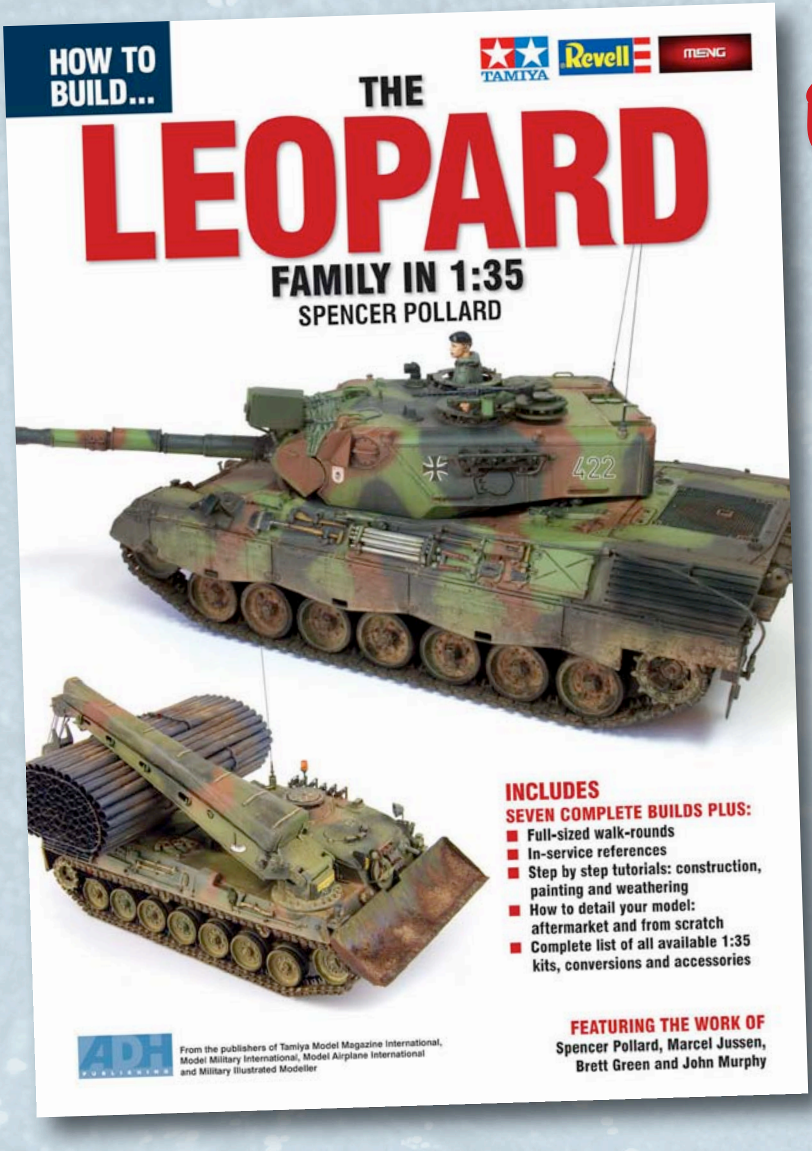

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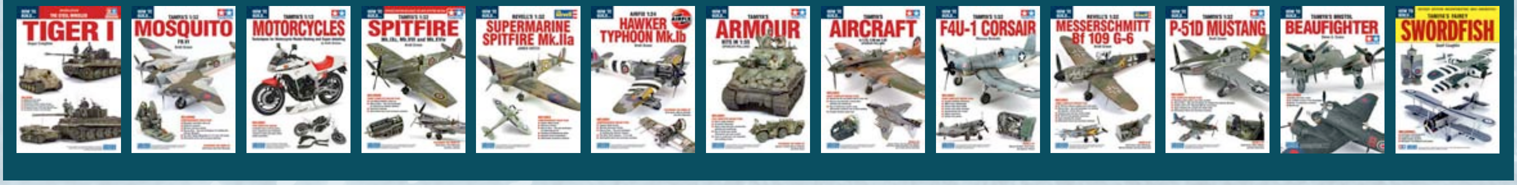

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FAST FOOD

Jose Brito builds MiniArt's 1:35 scale BA-64 and sets it in a Korean War setting.

RESCUE ME!

Andy King rescues his partly built Trumpeter 1:35 scale E-25 from the Shelf of Doom.

Mk.A WHIPPET

Kamil Feliks Sztarbala presents a new Feature Article on his 1:35 scale Meng Mk.A Whippet British Medium Tank.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

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The Last Post...

IRAQI MEDIUM TANK
TYPE69-II
1/35
No.2054
TAKOM

The kit decal sheet is well printed.

Revell has re-boxed ICM's 1:35 scale T-34/76 Model 1943. **Graham Tetley** takes a look.

THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY

TAKOM 1:35 TYPE 69-II. KIT NO. 2054

The Type 69-II tank was a Chinese development based on the Soviet T-54A tank, and was the first main battle tank developed independently by China.

During the 1980s, China reportedly sold hundreds of Type 69 tanks to Iraq. These were widely used, and widely destroyed, during the 1991 Gulf War. Some T-69s were still in service during the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Takom's 1:35 scale Type 69-II kit is presented in a highly attractive box with a very well-illustrated rending of the tank in action. When opening the box one is greeted with seventeen light grey coloured main sprues with 479 individual parts. Another 184 parts are included for the individual tracks. The molding of the pieces is generally first class with only some annoying sink marks on some parts. The lower hull tub is molded as a separate piece with outstanding definition. For the Type 69 however the front lower hull plate (when viewed from front on) should be rectangular. A simple fix for this would be replacing part "V2" with 20 plastic card and filling in the void to the first road wheel station. The upper hull is split into three pieces and is an obvious concession to the various versions Takom wish to produce. A quick dry fit revealed that these parts fit well together and indeed fit well onto the lower hull. Two very well done photo etch frets are included and include the headlight covers, engine screens, mud guard supports and various other hull and turret nick nacks. The contents of the kit are rounded off by the inclusion of one clear sprue, a small decal sheet with six marking choices together with an 18 page colour instruction booklet. The presentation and general feel of this kit is one of quality.

This overall feeling is somewhat diminished however, when you start to look at the kit parts in detail. Take the distinctive road wheels. The wheels themselves have detail on both the inner and outer surfaces and for the most part are done to a very high standard. The hidden inner flutes are included as separate armored hub caps. The rubber portion of the wheel itself are provided as separate pieces with the thin rubber mould lines represented in convex form as opposed to the Tamiya examples which are incorrectly depicted as concave depressions. The Takom supplied examples will be great if you wish to portray the vehicle in a "burnt out" configuration but the sprue gates are right on the convex mould seams themselves. A simple solution would be to remove the piece from the sprue, clean up the offending area and replace the mould seam with thin stretched sprue. The real problem is that the mould maker should have only allowed for a maximum of two attachment points. This way the modeller would not have to clean and modify these parts at all as they could be hidden by the tracks.

Even so, this molding flaw is more than made up by the inclusion of individual track links. The other problem is the armored hub covers. All ten should all be the same size. A simple solution would be to reduce parts A11 to appear the same size as the A10 parts. The tracks are not pinned, so the best method to assemble them is to liquid glue the links together, let them partially set for a half an hour and drape the lengths over the assembly. Each track has a small raised circle or knock out mark, but it is easily removed with a few swipes of a sanding stick.

With this particular version and its unique saw-tooth side skirts, you would only have to do this with several of the tracks as not much of the inner track is seen.

Moving on to the side skirts themselves, they are nicely done and relatively thin but if you wish to have more accurate renditions you could possible replace the rubber portion using the kit parts as a guide with 10 to 15 thou plastic card, slightly bending each saw tooth portion. The stand -off off amour is supplied are plastic parts and are equal to any other of the various renditions I have seen in plastic. The real bonus here is that they are very easy to assemble. The down side is that they are still a little thick. Although 95% of modellers will be happy with these, with the other 5% will probably opt for the photo-etched set that will undoubtedly follow this release.

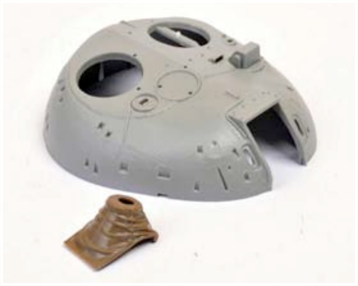
On balance however, the kit is very well done and is a credit to Takom for having the foresight to release it. It has a number of very good features like the flexible material for the gun mantlet and the complete nature of the product itself. I like this kit as it is refreshingly different and very much better than I expected.

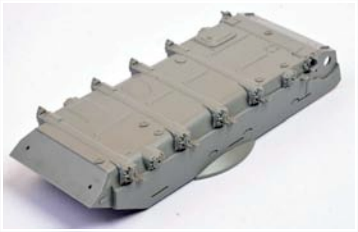
The kit is not without its flaws but then again, I have never reviewed at kit that is perfect. 95% of armour modellers will be more than happy with this one. If you want a Type 69 with a minimum of fuss, I suggest this may be the kit for you.

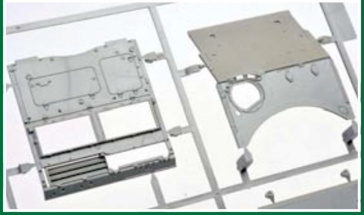
Recommended. ■

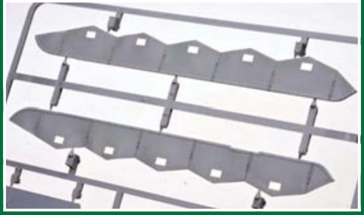
Luke Pitt

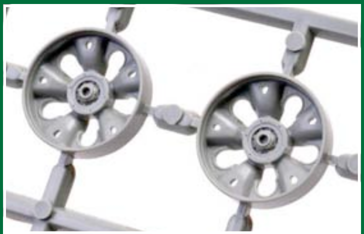
Thanks to Takom for the review sample
www.takom-world.com

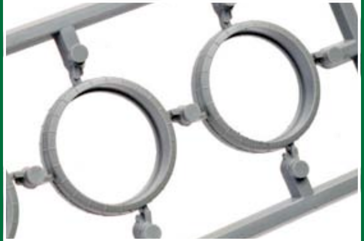

The turret shell and the flexible mantle cover.

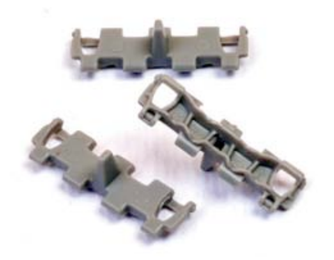

The one-piece lower hull tub.

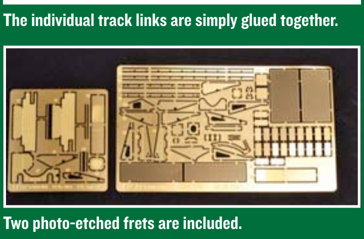

The upper hull is supplied in three separate pieces.


Side skirts are well done.


The road wheels, sans tyres.


The tyres are attached at four points. Careful cleanup will be essential!


The individual track links are simply glued together.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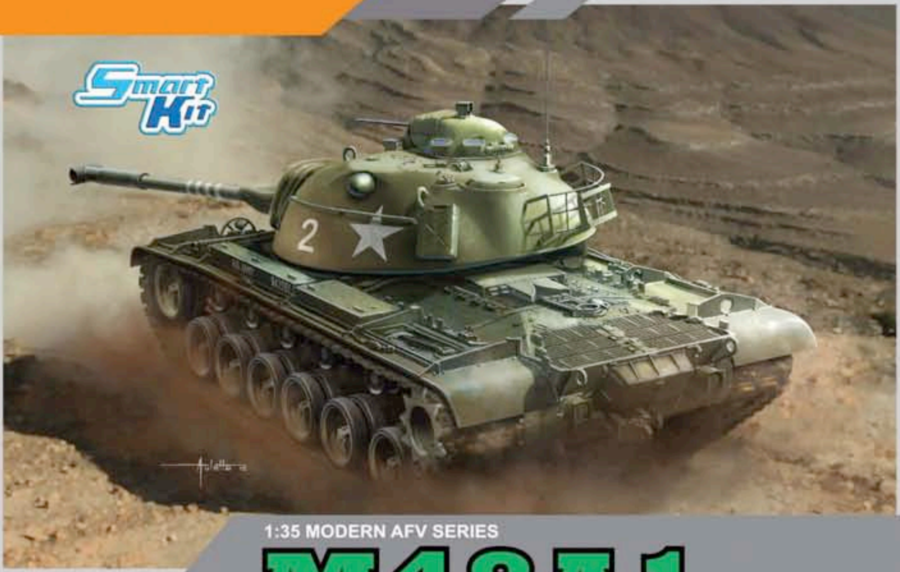

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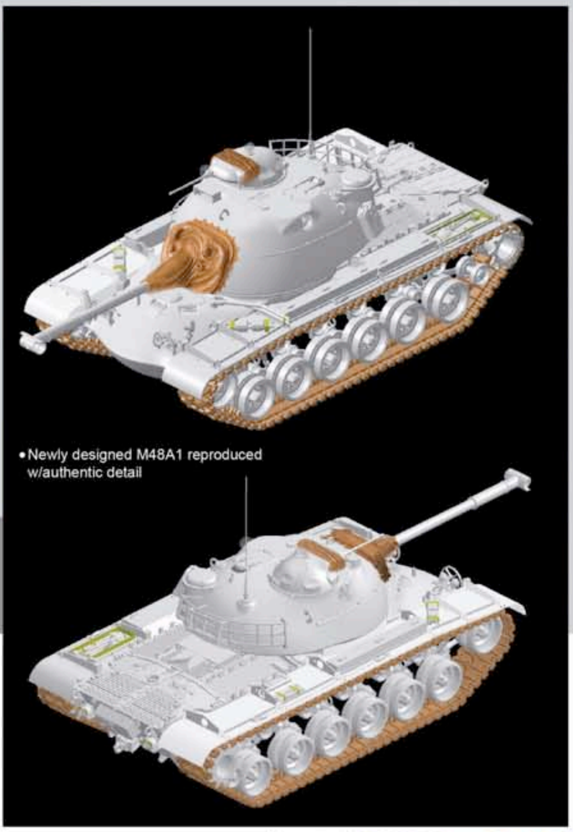
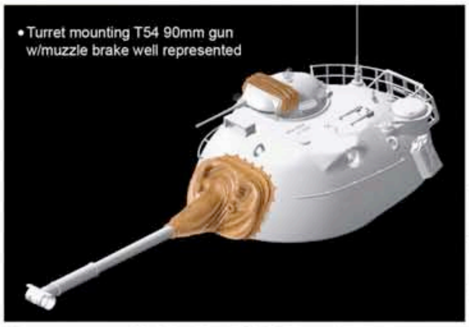
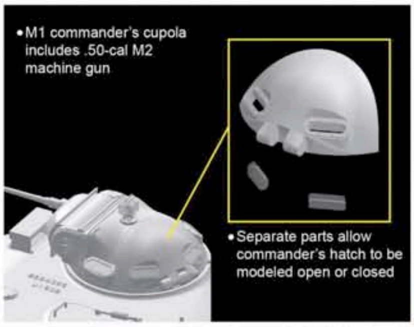
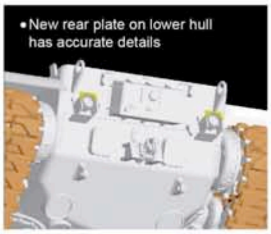
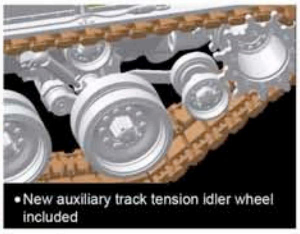
M48A1

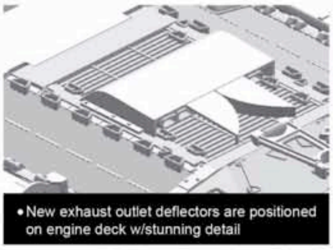

- Newly designed M48A1 reproduced w/authentic detail

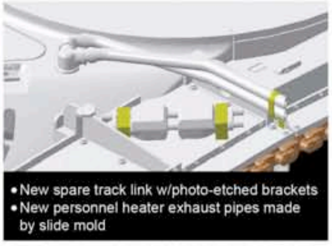

- Turret mounting T54 90mm gun w/muzzle brake well represented


- M1 commander's cupola includes .50-cal M2 machine gun
- Separate parts allow commander's hatch to be modeled open or closed

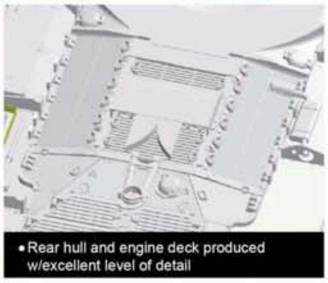

- New rear plate on lower hull has accurate details


- New auxiliary track tension idler wheel included

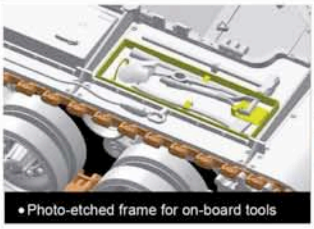

- New exhaust outlet deflectors are positioned on engine deck w/stunning detail

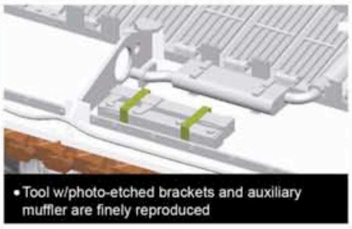

- New spare track link w/photo-etched brackets
- New personnel heater exhaust pipes made by slide mold

- Gun barrel travel lock can be shown in travel or combat modes

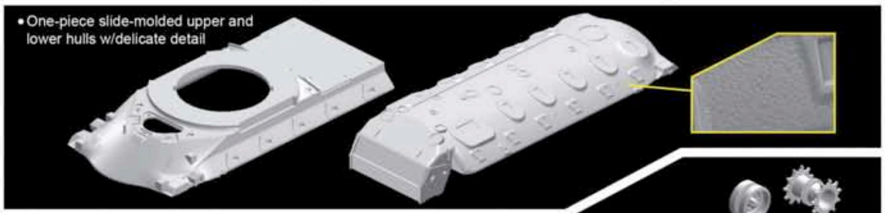

- Rear hull and engine deck produced w/excellent level of detail

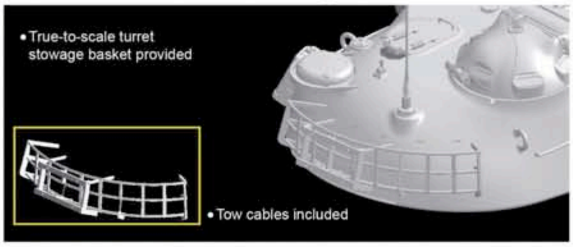
- Well-detailed stowage boxes on fenders

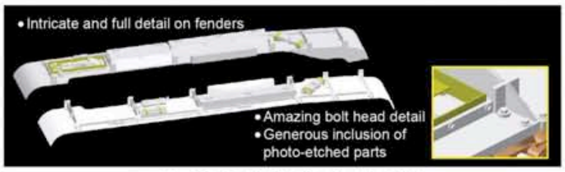

- Photo-etched frame for on-board tools


- Tool w/photo-etched brackets and auxiliary muffler are finely reproduced

- Well-defined ventilator cover on turret rear

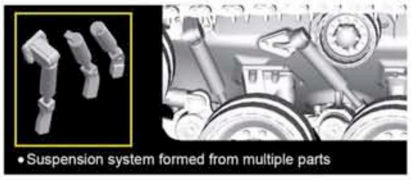

- One-piece slide-molded upper and lower hulls w/delicate detail


- True-to-scale turret stowage basket provided
- Tow cables included


- Intricate and full detail on fenders
- Amazing bolt head detail
- Generous inclusion of photo-etched parts

- Sprockets and road wheels assembled from multiple parts

- 3-directional slide-molded turret produced as single piece
- Turret with delicate cast pattern


- Suspension system formed from multiple parts

- Designed headlight cluster w/fine detail

8694366
U1608
- Casting numbers molded on M48A1

- Front vision ports including crystal clear parts

- Coincidence rangefinder mounted on turret sides

- Detailed one-piece DS tracks

D3559

Dragon Kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PG
See the full Dragon range at www.hobbyco.net
Dragon models are available from all good model shops

Find us on facebook
search Plastic Kits UK

Turning the Tide

Length: 146mm

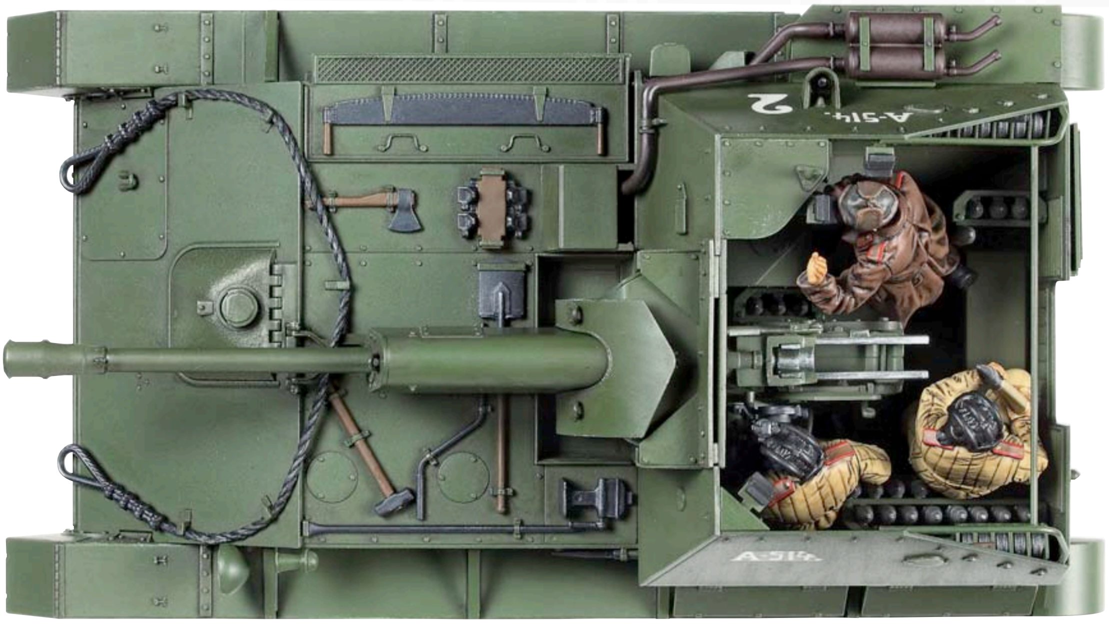
1/35 SCALE

1/35 Military Miniature Series

Russian Self-Propelled Gun SU-76M (Item 35348)

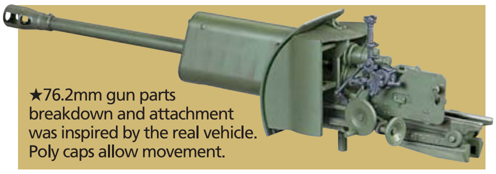
The SU-76M filled an important Soviet need for an effective self-propelled gun against invading German forces after the start of Operation Barbarossa in WWII. Based upon the T-70 light tank chassis, it was production-friendly and some 11,000 were manufactured between 1943 and 1945 – second only to the T-34. Deployed from the Battle of Kursk through to the Allied victory at the end of the conflict, its 76.2mm ZiS-3 gun helped it to play a valuable part offering supporting fire and as an anti-tank weapon. Superior mobility was its calling card, and the SU-76M was also able to operate in close unison with infantry units. Now, it joins the Tamiya 1/35 Military Miniature series–don't miss this opportunity to add a fascinating subject to your collection!

★Exhaustive surveys of a real SU-76M ensure the model accurately captures the open-top self-propelled gun form. ★Realistic assembly type tracks feature 1-piece straight sections and jig for construction. ★Comes with 2 marking options.



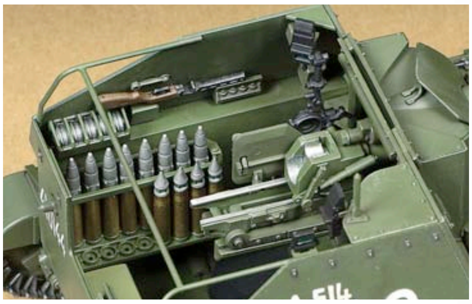
Loader
Commander
Gunner

★Contains 3 figures in authentic pose.



★76.2mm gun parts breakdown and attachment was inspired by the real vehicle. Poly caps allow movement.

★Detailed interior uses fuss-free assembly but shows great touch on gun breech and sights, shell racks, and so on.



★The SU-76M form with open top fighting compartment is breathtakingly captured.

RUSSIAN SELF-PROPELLED GUN **SU-76M**

Selected 1/35 scale Russian subjects available from Tamiya

Russian T34/76 Tank "ChTZ" Version 1943 Production (Item 35149)

Russian Heavy Tank JS-2 Model 1944 ChKZ (Item 35289)

Russian Army Assault Infantry (Item 35207)

★Images show assembled and painted kit.
★Product may vary from images shown.

TAMIYA

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